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JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORY



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JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORY

IOWA

W.P.A.

Compiled and written by
The Iowa Writers' Program
Of the Work Projects Administration
In the State of Iowa

Jessie M. Parker,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction,
State-wide Sponsor of the
Iowa Writers' Program

Sponsored by
Johnson County Superintendent of Schools
Iowa City, Iowa

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CONTENTS

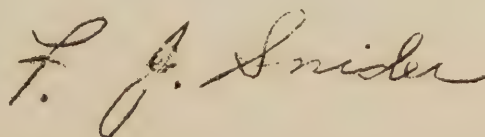
INTRODUCTION	1
THE ORGANIZATION OF JOHNSON COUNTY	2
THE CREATION OF IOWA CITY	8
SURVEYING THE CAPITAL SITE	17
IOWA CITY - UNINCORPORATED	24
FROM WATERWAY TO AIRWAY	30
THE MORMON HANDCART EXPEDITION	43
THE PEOPLE OF THE SOIL	46
MILLS, QUARRIES, BRICKYARDS, BREWERIES	51
LEGISLATION AT OLD STONE CAPITOL	60
FOOTPATHS IN EDUCATION	68
CONCERNING CHURCHES	77
NEWSPAPERS AT IOWA'S FIRST CAPITAL	86
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	91
IN RETROSPECT	100

FOREWORD

The American way of life can be no more truly depicted than in the growth of one's own county, and Johnson County is fortunately rich in historic material. We are especially happy to have a new Johnson County History at this time when world-wide threat to Democracy is constantly before us.

Selected as the seat of Iowa Territorial Government while it was still uncharted wilderness, Johnson County's pioneer settlers faced the problem of creating a community that would foster a clearly visioned democratic ideal for the future. They achieved their goal, for the laws framed during those hard days of frontier experience have endured to the present age as examples of wise safeguards in the complexities of human living.

Johnson County was granted a second opportunity for enriching experience when it was made the permanent home of the State University. How these two great forces developed with the growth of the county is historical knowledge that we wish our children to have concerning their home region. With these thoughts uppermost I take pleasure in presenting this new Johnson County History, compiled and written by the Iowa Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration. The story it tells is both interesting and true.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "F. J. Snider". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

County Superintendent of Schools,
Johnson County

INTRODUCTION

Chosen as the seat of Territorial government while its lands were still uncharted prairie, Johnson County remained the only county in Iowa to shelter both the State Capitol and the State University. The necessary emphasis upon affairs of the State naturally dwarfed the importance of the development of the County as a county. Forced into becoming background, Johnson County nevertheless made a colorful setting for its capitol and its university through the variety of its peoples: German, Bohemian, Irish, Welsh, English, Scottish, and native American. Old world cultures enriched the native point of view and made possible the understanding that created an ideal setting for a great university.

Johnson County, named for the Indian fighter Colonel Richard Mentor Johnson, was created December 21, 1837; one year after the first pioneer settlement had been made within its boundaries. The local organization of the county was not affected, however, until July 4, 1838, the day after the birthday of the Territory. Within these two dates lives the vital story of the people who made the county a reality.

For many years the wilderness along the banks of the Iowa River had been the favorite home of the Meskwaki Indians. Although deprived of their lands in Johnson County by the treaties of 1832 and 1837, the red men lingered until the pressure of pioneer population compelled them to move to new homes farther west. As late as 1838 a village of perhaps a thousand Meskwakis was situated not far from the site that one day became Iowa City. Poweshiek was the chief of this band. His farewell lament, spoken during the celebration of the birth of the Territory at Gilbert's Trading House, was profoundly sad. When asked to speak, Poweshiek rose with dignity, and pointing westward said:

"Soon I shall go to a new home and you will plant corn where my dead sleep. Our towns, the paths we have made, and the flowers we love will soon be yours. I have moved many times and have seen the white man put his feet in the tracks of the Indian and make the earth into fields and gardens. I know that I must go away and you will be so glad when I am gone that you will soon forget that the meat and the lodge-fire of the Indian have been forever free to the stranger and that at all times he has asked for what he has fought for, the right to be free."

CHAPTER 1

THE ORGANIZATION OF JOHNSON COUNTY

The first white man to settle in Johnson County was John Gilbert. A New Yorker of scholarly background, he had made his vocation the building of canals, but a failure in this business had led him to change his name of John W. Prentice to John Gilbert and to enter the employ of the American Fur Company, which sent him west to establish Indian outposts. He came to the Iowa country in about 1826 and set up the first trader's cabin near to the Meskwaki Indian village, close to the Iowa River near the mouth of Gilbert (Snyder) Creek. This was about five miles below the site of the future capital of the Territory.

In 1836, Gilbert, now a familiar resident of the country, journeyed to Fort Armstrong (Rock Island) in company with the Indians to attend the drafting of the Indian Treaty surrendering the lands in Keokuk's Reserve. While there he met two young men, Philip Clark and Eli Meyers. They were seeking new land for their future homes, and he persuaded them to return with him to the valley where he kept his trading house. Clark and Meyers were so pleased with the country that they staked out claims there for their future homes. Soon other settlers began to arrive. They came slowly at first, but, in the spring of 1838, suddenly began to arrive in flocks. By May, there were 237.

With the coming of spring in 1837, John Gilbert gave up his post in the American Fur Company, and set about establishing a business of his own. Selecting a place on the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 35, township 78, range 6, he gathered up all the young men who had come in and were without employment, and hired them to help him build a second trading cabin. This structure, consisting of two 20-foot-square cabins with a roofed space of 20 feet between them, stood near Poweshiek's village, on the Indian land, just over the then existing treaty line. Poweshiek liked and trusted Gilbert and willingly granted him leave to build within the Meskwaki country. The man sent by the fur company to succeed Gilbert was Wheaton Chase. He was interested in observing the now independent trader Gilbert, and abandoned the old cabin of the American Fur Company in order to build, in 1837, a new cabin on the south side and a little farther up the creek. This was within a quarter of a mile of Gilbert's cabin, and stood for many years on the Byington farm, in what later became Pleasant Valley Township. The two trading cabins became the focus of pioneer politics in Johnson County.

THE 17th

On the Fourth of July, 1837, Gilbert's new trading house was declared "open for business", an event celebrated by the distribution of much free liquor to the proprietor's friends, white and red alike. It is said that two barrels went to the Indians in compensation for their allowing Gilbert to build his trading house on their ground.

Gilbert's leading ambition was to father a town in this frontier country. Earlier in the season he had employed Jonas M. Higley to survey and lay out a town site. This, the first in Johnson County, was in Fremont Township, near to River Junction. Known variously as "See-pee-nah-mo," "Sepe-pee-nah-mo," "Sepe-nah-mo," and "Sepanamo," the prospective village was commonly called "Stump Town" by the early settlers. Whatever hopes John Gilbert may have had for the future of this paper town, it never came to life.

The first settlers in Johnson County were completely isolated, especially in winter. After the early winter of 1837-38 had shut them in entirely, they decided to do something about it at once. January had scarcely come before seven (of the twenty who made up the whole population) came together to find ways and means to get better connection with the outside world. The meeting was held at John Gilbert's trading post and those present besides him were Isaac N. Lesh and Henry Felkner, who served as secretary and chairman respectively, Pleasant Harris, Eli Meyers, an Indian squaw named Jenny, and a Negro called Mogawk. Resolutions were drafted, asking the Territorial Legislature for roads, bridges, and mail facilities. Pleasant Harris and John Gilbert were delegated to carry the resolutions to the Legislature then in session in Burlington, and they started on their journey two days later, walking through deep snow for the entire distance of 80 miles. But this, the first petition for county recognition, was ignored by the lawmakers.

Both Harris and Gilbert had hopes of sponsoring the county seat of Johnson County. Harris sketched on paper a town named Osceola, after the famous Seminole chief of Florida. Gilbert platted one to be called Napoleon, and these two towns were rivals from the start. According to Col. S. C. Trowbridge, the settlers argued all through the winter about these two non-existent towns. Poems appeared in the community glorifying Osceola:

"We'll build a city to his name -
With church and stately tower adorn;
High as the heavens shall reach its fame,
And in it none shall hunger, thirst, or mourn."

To which the upholders of Napoleon, presuming on their adopted name somewhat, answered:

"Vain feeble worm! presumptuous boy!
How vain conceit doth lift you up!
Ere long shall trouble mar thy joy
For on~~e~~ bitter sorrow shalt thou sup --
Did not all Europe bow to me,
And tremble when I gave command?
Can now a feeble worm like thee
Presume my fury to withstand?"

Osceola was to be situated upon the Iowa River, near Gilbert's Trading Post. Upon extinguishment of the Indian title (October 21, 1837) the Harris family planned to move into that fertile region and establish a town about three miles north of Gilbert Creek.

Meanwhile Gilbert and his followers were equally busy with plans to establish a town right next to the place chosen by Harris for his brainchild, Osceola. But Gilbert had an advantage in his friendship with Poweshiek, and the chieftain allowed him to build a "claim cabin" on the red man's land. Philip Clark induced a John Morford from Bloomington (Muscataine) to come and father this 'claim cabin' which was built to hold down the site for the prospective town. A claim cabin of frontier days was merely a symbol of a building; four poles were laid out to form an "enclosure" inside of which a man could sleep, and a few stakes were driven into the ground so that the claim holder could swear the ground had been staked. Colonel Trowbridge went to Burlington to lobby for the county seat at Napoleon and all of Gilbert's many friends added their influence to help him. The rivalry between Harris and Gilbert broke up their intimate friendship, for neither could relinquish his ambition to be the father of a county seat town.

Finally the claim cabin and squatter's rights won the site of the county seat for the Gilbert faction, even to the name Napoleon. The post office was established March 2, 1839, and the next move was to have a surveyor lay off the southeast quarter of section 22 into town lots. Then construction was begun upon a large frame house, the first erected in Johnson County, Wisconsin Territory and, incidentally, the only house the ambitious town of Napoleon ever saw built.

The old settlers of Johnson County reported in 1909^{that} Napoleon "embraced all of the land in the farm of James McCollister and extended south to the township line. Gilbert's trading house was in the southeast corner of the town and the Indian village of Poweshiek and the fortified city of Wapashashiek were both within the borders of Napoleon.

Its streets were wide and miles in length; it had parks and boat landings. Washington Street extended east from the Iowa River two miles. Napoleon was "a town of vast proportions." It was Gilbert's town and he was to have been its first postmaster, his commission arriving late in March, 1839. But Gilbert never saw the document. He was gravely ill, and two days later he died and so was denied the pleasure of serving the little community for which he had worked and planned.

Samuel McCrory, in his diary, recounts briefly the funeral service: "a coffin of walnut was prepared by his friends, and with saddened hearts both the natives and the comrades from the states paid him their last tribute as they laid him in the little garden he had fenced near the trading post. No words were spoken at this interment, but the blackened faces of the Indians were mute expressions of the sorrow they felt for the loss of the man who, they said, 'was always honest.'"

A few years after Gilbert's death his remains were disinterred by such close friends as Eli Meyers, Samuel McCrory, Philip Clark and A. D. Stephens, and transferred to the village graveyard.

"It was our intention then and for a long time afterward, to erect a suitable monument to his grave," runs the account of Col. S. C. Trowbridge, "but it was neglected from year to year, and was never done. Finally some miscreant... removed the wooden slab from the grave, and among the rapidly multiplying graves of the new city cemetery, his was lost. No one can now tell where rest the ashes of the first white man that trod the soil of Johnson County."

Shortly after the platting of Napoleon, a second county meeting was held at Gilbert's trading post on June 1, 1838, to gain permission to establish a county government. This time the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature heeded the petition and the request for county officers was written into the law. With Napoleon pronounced the seat of justice, Harris' dream town of Osceola had vanished, although later he tried to revive it by an attempt to locate it at Old Man's Creek.

No longer, now, were the Johnson County settlers so cut off from the outer world. In July 1838, Congress established a mail route between Bloomington (Muscatine) and Napoleon. The first legislature of the Territory of Iowa, on January 25, 1839, authorized the laying out of a territorial road from the ferry landing across from Oquawka, Illinois, by the shortest way through Florence and Wapello to Napoleon. A post office was assigned to the county seat, March 2, 1839. The position that came too late for John Gilbert was filled by William M. Harris. On October 10, 1839,

a mail contract was granted to Thomas B. Johnson "for once-a-week service" each way between Bloomington and Napoleon. This service was to cover the period from November 7, 1839 to June 30, 1842.

The greatest honor that could come to a county, to be chosen as the Territorial seat of justice, was Johnson County's during the brief span of Napoleon's existence for it was at Napoleon that the commissioners met to choose the location of the Territorial government. The First Legislative Assembly of Iowa passed an act on January 21, 1839, providing for three named commissioners to meet on the first day of May in the year 1839, at the town of Napoleon, "and proceed to locate the seat of government." We know that the commissioners met at the town of Napoleon, but in which of its two buildings no one can tell. Was it at the little "claim cabin" that had held down the county seat site? Perhaps, but more than likely they met in Gilbert's old trading house, Napoleon's real community center.

The first district court of Johnson County was held in May, 1839 and brought a throng of spectators and pioneers from all parts of the territory to inspect the capital site. Said T. S. Parvin the district prosecutor, when he came to the suburbs of the capital to be, "It was all suburbs as the city of Napoleon only existed on paper." The windowless store room of Gilbert's cabin served as the court room and Chase's double cabin as tavern and hotel.

Although the government of Johnson County legally began July 4, 1838, there were no officers until Henry Felkner, Abner Wolcott, and William Sturgis were elected county commissioners on September 18, 1838. Their first meeting was called for March 29, 1839, at Napoleon, but it is probable that the conference was held at one of the trading houses down the river rather than at the unfinished frame house on the site of Napoleon, in the still more desolate wilderness. Luke Douglass was appointed clerk and Wheaton Chase treasurer of the county. The eagle side of a ten cent piece was adopted as the county's seal. October 7, 1839, the fall meeting of the county commissioners (Henry Felkner, Robert Wolcott, and Philip Clark) adjourned after their routine business to meet the following morning at the home of F. M. Irish, in Iowa City.

In December of that year the Legislative Assembly relocated the county seat at Iowa City, a town created by legislative fiat the preceding January to be the Territorial Capital. The northwest quarter of section 18 in township 79, just south of the Territorial Capital, section 10, was selected for the seat of county government on January 27, 1840. Meanwhile Samuel H. McCrory, the postmaster of Napoleon, had moved his post office from Napoleon to Iowa City! On November 14, 1839, the name was officially changed

and Napoleon, the hopeful paper town of Gilbert's dreams, was dead. On the Fourth of July in 1838, the pioneers had gathered for their celebration at Napoleon. Only a year later they listened to the reading of the Declaration of Independence, at Iowa City. The site of the Territorial Government had absorbed the dream town county seat.



CHAPTER 2

THE CREATION OF IOWA CITY

On August 11, 1838, Robert Lucas, first Governor of the New Territory of Iowa, called the First Legislative Assembly into regular session. His first annual message to the Legislature was cogent and clear. He advised the immediate appointment "of three disinterested men, of known integrity and weight of character" to consider and select a place for the Government of the Territory. The ensuing storm of discussion finally hit upon Burlington as the temporary capital for a period of three years and chose Mount Pleasant as the permanent capital.

The selection of Burlington as temporary capital had brought only one dissenting vote, but Mount Pleasant as a permanent capital aroused a fury of opposition, and there had been 26 motions urging another choice. When the House could come to no agreement on a river town or an interior community, Col. Thomas Cox rose to launch a new idea. "Why not ignore all local interests", he said, "and locate the capitol on unoccupied (possibly unsurveyed) public domain, lay out a new town, call it the capital city, and thereon erect the buildings of state." There had been a precedent for such action. In 1818 the State Capitol of Illinois was placed at Vandalia on four sections of unsettled Government land and, significantly, this had been done when Colonel Cox had been a member of the Illinois General Assembly.

The Cox motion was discussed, then refused for a time, only to rise again and again until finally the ideas coalesced in the final words of the Assembly: "Be it enacted, that the commissioners hereinafter mentioned, or a majority of them, shall, on the first day of May, in the year of eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, meet at the town of Napoleon, and proceed to locate the seat of Government at the most eligible point within the present limits of Johnson County." The motion passed the Council and the House, and on the fourth day of January 1839, the bill "an act to locate the Seat of Government of the Territory of Iowa, and for other purposes" was sent to the Governor for approval. With some exceptions of detail, the Governor approved the bill on January 21, 1839.

Iowa City's proud position as territorial capital was probably owing more to the faith and work of Chauncey Swan than to the efforts of any other pioneer. Yet in the century that has passed since this public-spirited man selected the site of Iowa City his name has been all but forgotten, his life's story faded almost completely from memory. No statue of Chauncey Swan stands in "his city", no thoroughfare or building bears his name. Not even a photograph or

sketch of him is known to exist. A monument to his ideal, however, does stand in Iowa City -- the Old Stone Capitol that he planned for and built.

Beset by political treachery when Iowa City began, he never wavered from his ambition to build a capital city for the Territory of Iowa and a capitol building within that city. A century later that building, loved by all Iowans during the hundred years, still stands on the banks of the Iowa River.

Chauncey Swan first made a name for himself in the Territory of Iowa when at the age of 39 he was elected representative from Dubuque in the First Legislative Assembly of the territory which convened at Burlington, November 12, 1838. Swan, born in New York state in 1799, had followed the trade of lead mining which brought him to Dubuque when the mines were opened there. His selection as one of the three commissioners to locate the permanent seat of government in Johnson County brought him to Iowa City where he was to become the leader in its founding. He was the only one of the three to appear at the town of Napoleon in Johnson County, designated specifically in the capital locating act as the place where the commissioners were to meet on May 1, 1839.

We are told that this first of May was a pleasant day of clear sky and gentle breezes. A little group of pioneers had come to be present at the choosing of a site for the territorial capital. It seemed a gala occasion in the morning, but when the noon hour had passed and neither of the other two commissioners had appeared, a cloud of apprehension darkened the spirits of the company. Would another day do as well to select the site? Might not delay invalidate the plan? In the midst of the questioning, Chauncey Swan called for a volunteer to ride to Louisa County, 35 miles away, to bring Commissioner John Ronalds from his home on the Iowa River. The third commissioner, Robert Ralston of Des Moines County, could not possibly be reached in so short a time. Who, it was asked, would venture the trip on horseback for Ronalds? Philip Clark, one of Johnson County's first settlers, stepped forward and offered to attempt the hazardous journey. In a short time he was in the saddle and away to the eastward.

Relief that a messenger was on his way lightened the long hours of waiting while daylight lasted, but when dusk turned to darkness the pioneers remembered the hazards of the trail -- the streams to be forded, and the road that was only a crooked trail. Accidents might delay the messenger; too, Ronalds might not be at home, or might be sick and unable to come and some other county might be chosen. But the settlers could not bear the thought of losing the seat of government and all the value and prestige it would give to their lands. Chauncey Swan, alive to every possibility of

loss or gain, frequently looked at his watch as the night dragged on. Eleven o'clock came. The watchers fell silent under the strain of tense waiting. As the minutes slipped by and the hands of the watch neared twelve, suddenly out of the silence resounded thudding hoofs. The crowd burst into a shout of joy as they made out in the dark the dim forms of two riders.

As Philip Clark and John Ronalds dismounted in front of the trading house, Chauncey Swan looked at his watch and calmly observed that there was still time before midnight for Justice of the Peace Robert Waller to administer to the commissioners the required oath.

With right hands uplifted, the commissioners repeated the oath of allegiance: "We, Chauncey Swan and John Ronalds do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that we will, to the best of skill, abilities and judgment, locate and establish the permanent seat of government for the Territory of Iowa, in the county of Johnson, in the Territory aforesaid; and that we will faithfully and honestly superintend the erection and completion of the public buildings, as is provided in the act entitled 'An Act to locate the Seat of Government of the Territory of Iowa, and for other purposes,' and that in all things we will faithfully and truly discharge our duties under the same without partiality, favor, or interest."

Surely no native of Johnson County would ever accuse the rigidly honorable Chauncey Swan of such a connivance against true time as setting the clock back a little as occasion permitted, but that night has often been reported as the longest in the county's history and more than one historian tells us that dawn came surprisingly soon after the oath was administered on that particular stroke of twelve.

Swan and Reynolds held a meeting the following day, May 2, 1839, appointed John Frierson clerk to the board, and during the afternoon went to examine the land above Napoleon on the Iowa River, the country that was soon to become Iowa City.

About two miles above Napoleon the commissioners paused. It was mid-afternoon. The men viewed the landscape from a ridge thirty to fifty feet above the river. Below them lay the Iowa River, clear and cool. Beneath the surface they could see the sand and gravel of its clean channel, about 240 feet wide.

The lofty plain on the east bank of the river was covered mostly with large oaks between which were small open spaces. To the east and the south the commissioners saw an area of about 600 acres like a great amphitheatre covered with hazel shrubbery and scattered oaks and hickory trees.

It was this prospect that convinced them that they had discovered "the most eligible point" for the capital.

Their next duty was to examine the rock in the exposed strata along the banks of the Iowa River to see whether it could be used to build a capitol building. The so-called "marble quarry" proved satisfactory but since there had been no land survey the commissioners were at a loss to describe in proper terms the location of the "eligible point" and the "marble quarry" they had found. They unofficially surveyed it themselves then and there, and most of this was done by John Frierson, clerk of the board, who was an experienced surveyor.

It was on the fourth day of May 1839 that the commissioners officially located the permanent seat of the government of the Territory of Iowa on Section Ten of Township 79 North of Range Six West of the Fifth Principal Meridian by "placing a stake in the center of the proposed site." That the stranger might be informed, the site was marked by a post or slab of wood placed about where the Old Stone Capitol later stood.

The post which marked this site was placed under the center of the east door of the Old Capitol and was taken from an oak tree that stood in the center of Washington Street in front of the Phoenix Block. It had been cut and smoothly hewn by David B. Cox; the inscription on it had been done by Leander Judson. The section, township and range had been cut with a surveyor's marking tool, and the letters, about two inches in height, were painted white. The inscription read: "Seat of Government, City of Iowa, May 4th, 1839. C. Swan, John Ronalds, Rob't Ralston, commissioners. Geo. Kelley, J. H. McKenny, of Des Moines, J. W. Isett of Louisa, L. D. Dillon of Dubuque, witness Sec. 10, T. 79, R. 6 W. 5th Mer."

This post was kept by Mr. Swan in the vault in the basement of Old Stone Capitol, where it remained for years until the clerk of the United States District Court one day used it for firewood.

The selection of the site met with enthusiastic approval. Theodore S. Parvin called it a "beautiful location." Father Mazzuchelli admired the place. John B. Newhall characterized it as a "spot of unrivaled beauty." Thomas Hughes, editor of the Bloomington Herald, pronounced the view from the elevation along the Iowa River "sublime."

With the completion of the survey of the townsite and the recording of the map of Iowa City in the office of Isaiah P. Hamilton, the recorder of Johnson County, on the thirteenth day of July 1839, the time had come for a sale of lots. Information had been sent over the country describing the location of the seat of government on the banks of the

Iowa River, and many who had visited the place looked forward eagerly to the day when they might buy lots and build houses in the frontier capital of Iowa.

Governor Lucas proclaimed on July 25, 1839, that two public sales of lots would be held at Iowa City -- the first to commence on the third Monday of August, and the second on the first Monday of October following the date of his proclamation.

Notice of the first sale of lots which had been proclaimed throughout the territory was at the same time published in the eastern papers. Everybody in Iowa seems to have been informed of the coming event. As the date of the sale drew near, emigrant settlers and a few eastern capitalists appeared on the scene. Some came to buy sites for homes; others to speculate in town lots.

The problem of housing so large a number of strangers in a town with no real hotel was solved by the erection of "Lean Back Hall" on Linn Street near where the post office now stands (1941). After the rush of settlers began, this hall, which was a log cabin of the usual dimensions, built early in 1839, was enlarged and converted into a tavern for their accommodation. This enlargement was made by extending a board shed 50 feet long from the back of the cabin, the original dimensions of which were 16 by 18 feet. The shed addition was eight feet high in front, six feet high in the rear and ten feet wide. Along the back or lower side of it was a continuous bed, running the full length of the shed. The superstructure of this bed was of brush about a foot in thickness, and on this was spread about a foot thickness of newly mown "prairie down" (slough hay) over which the blankets were spread. Two long pillows made of muslin sewn into bags and stuffed with the feathers of wild game birds completed the furnishings of this community bed. The floor in front of it was carpeted with wild slough hay or prairie grass hay. Along the upper side of the hall was a row of plank benches and above them, on the wall, a row of 50 wooden pegs on which to hang garments. The place was lighted by four tallow candles on the ends of poles stuck into the dirt floor. Fifty-six men of ordinary size could sleep on this bed, but there were times when so many large men came for lodging that not more than thirty-six could be packed in! When this occurred, those who were unprovided with bed space sat upon the hay carpet or the benches and leaned back against the wall while they slept until the ringing of an ox bell outside summoned them to breakfast. The place was usually crowded and so many slept against the wall that the building came to be known as Lean Back Hall.

Lodgers who were crowded out of bed by heavier sleepers were entitled to a rebate and were required to pay only for their meals, which were 25 cents each. The bed was the same price. One portion of this shed was divided into small

rooms by partitions formed of pucawa, a kind of matting made by the Indians from the long leaves of the cattail flax. These small rooms, or berths, were reserved for the use of women and children.

The main cabin contained a stock of groceries consisting of flour, corn meal, bacon, dried apples, gunpowder, whiskey, salt, brown sugar, a few jars of stick candy, a box of raisins and one of rosin soap, and a keg of saleratus. In one end of the cabin was this grocery store and in the other was the kitchen and dining room. The cooking was done on a "four-hole" wood stove that had cost \$60 in Troy, New York, in addition to the transportation charges, about fifty-one dollars, from New York to Iowa City.

Mrs. Hannah Cole was the landlady and superintended the cooking, and it was said that no man was ever heard to grumble about the quantity or quality of the food she served. F. M. Irish was the landlord and Charles Morgan the bartender. The bar was well supplied with clear spring water, loaf sugar, and good whiskey ("Old Virginia, double rectified.") These three when properly mixed made a drink the settlers swore by to ward off diseases and prolong life indefinitely. The cost was about five cents a glass.

The first business of the county board was transacted in Lean Back Hall, and both the first and the second sale of lots took place in front of it. The county court also met there on January 7, and again on March 6, 1840. During the time of the land surveys it was the business center of Iowa City. On the morning of the first day of the first lot sale a large number of people assembled there and many of the potential purchasers began the day with drinks. It was a companionable, good-natured crowd that listened to auctioneer Daugherty of Dubuque as he spoke from a wagon box in front of Lean Back Hall.

After a formidable announcement of the terms of sale, the wagon and the auctioneer, with the crowd following, moved on to a spot near the later location of the Presbyterian Church, on North Clinton Street. Here the first of Iowa City lots was sold to L. D. Phillips for \$330. It was lot number eight in block 86. Then the auctioneer, the wagon and the crowd moved to block number 89 where lot number one was "knocked down" for \$125 to G. W. Stratton.

The third move was to block 97 where lot number three was sold to Ewing and Chatham for \$265. In like manner a hundred other lots were offered and sold to the highest bidders. But business was well interspersed with pleasure and from time to time the crowd flocked over to Lean Back Hall again for more refreshments, usually drinks. Sometimes a purchaser was so well pleased with his buying that he would treat the entire crowd.

This first auction sale of real estate at Iowa City continued through three days, during which time 103 lots were sold. The highest sum paid for any lot was \$750 -- lot six in block 79. The smallest amount was \$25 each for lots five, six, seven, and eight in block 52.

The second sale of lots at Iowa City was begun on the first Monday of October 1839. The procedure was the same as at the first sale and the 106 lots were sold on the same terms. In summary, Acting Commissioner Chauncey Swan reported that certificates of sale were finally issued for 181 lots at the public sales of 1839, for which purchasers actually paid \$26,739.75.

Each of the following years through 1843 there were public auctions of town lots. Each year, too, the sale price was lowered and the terms of settlement somewhat eased. Times were hard and the sale of lots became slow. The forfeiture of not a few purchases diminished the total returns. There was great need for money to continue with the building of the capitol. The \$20,000 donated by the United States Government for the erection of public buildings was entirely inadequate to provide for their erection. Greater flexibility in selling the remaining lots seemed to be the only solution, hence many lots were sold both at public and at private sale, paid for in cash, long term notes, or labor, at an average minimum price of \$80 per lot.

The Legislative Assembly in May 1843 donated "outlot" number 10 to the citizens of Iowa City to be used by them as a public burying ground, "Provided, the said citizens shall, as a condition of this grant, enclose and keep enclosed said lot, with a good and substantial fence." Thus came into being Oakland Cemetery. Burials previous to this time had been on a tract of land below the city, opposite the Municipal Airport. This spot had proved unsuitable as the graves immediately filled with water. In 1845 they were removed to Oakland Cemetery.

The Johnson County Claim Association

When the Territorial Capital was located by law in Johnson County, the settlers took alarm over what would happen to their homes with the influx of speculators and adventurers bound to follow any such public movement. What was to prevent such undesirables from coming in and cheating honest settlers out of their homes? Unless concerted action were taken, every claim in the county was jeopardized. The settlers talked over the situation, and on March 9, 1839, at a "grand meeting", the constitution for the "Claim Association of Johnson County" was adopted. S. C. Trowbridge, the sheriff, was elected the first president. Nearly every settler in the county was present and 282 signatures were affixed to the constitution. These ranged from those of the humblest squatters to that of Governor Lucas himself.

Similar claim associations for the protection of the settlers were not unusual; what made this one unique was its elaborate constitution. The original manuscript, now housed in the State Historical Museum of Iowa, shows with what care and foresight those Johnson County pioneers guarded their interests. As organic law the constitution was ideal. It named the officers and prescribed their duties -- a president, vice president, clerk or recorder of claims, deeds, or transfers of claims or boundaries, seven judges or adjustors of claims or boundaries, and two marshals. Samuel H. McCrory, one of the most prominent men in the community, was elected recorder, a position he held throughout the life of the association. Most of the onerous duties fell to the marshals and to the adjustors of claims.

Within a few months after the association was formed, a man named Crawford brazenly took possession of a claim lying about one mile north of Iowa City and belonging to association member William Sturgis. Cyrus Sander's Journal tells us that, "At ten o'clock on the morning of November 7, 1839, about sixty stalwart frontiersmen marched in a body to the claim-jumper's cabin. The company surrounded the place and then called a parley. Crawford, who was busy putting some finishing touches on his house, was asked to abandon his claim, but he refused and warned his visitors against molesting him. Sturgis then offered to pay him for all labor performed on the property if he would leave peaceably and relinquish his claim; but Crawford emphatically refused. 'The men ascended the corners of the house, and in 15 minutes there was not a vestige of it left standing. Mr. Crawford was left in amazement, with axe in hand, in the center of the vacant space once occupied by his cabin.' Having administered this warning, the company dispersed."

Not long afterward further action was needed, however, for Crawford had rebuilt his house and moved in with his wife and family. This time the settlers determined to stop at no half-way measure. But whatever their plan had been, it was not put into effect, for when they arrived upon the scene a meek and chastened Crawford met them. After a short conference with Sturgis a peaceful agreement was reached. Afterward, it is related, Crawford tried to substantiate his claim in court, but nothing came of the proceedings, as it was almost impossible to find a judge, lawyer, or juror in Iowa who was not a claim holder.

Article 3, section 1, of the constitution gave explicit directions to the members for making and recording their claims. "All members of the association shall be required in making claims to stake them off or blaze them in such a manner that the line of such claims can be easily traced or followed." Corners marked by a tree or a stake were to be identified by the initials of the claimant. In no uncertain terms did William H. Harris describe his claim. "Commencing

at a certain Oak Tree at the North East corner Running South 1 mile to a certain Stake at the South East corner thence West $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to a certain stake at the South West corner thence North 1 mile to a certain Bur Oak at the North West corner thence East $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the place of beginning containing 320 acres."

Many of the claims recorded were described in much more detail, and the claimants used every imaginable device in locating their property. On the other hand, however, some of the claim statements were very short, for instance: "Walter Camp has this day made the following claim To-wit all of that part of the NW qr of sect 15 in Township 79 N R 6 West which Lyes West of the Iowa River in Johnson County."

During the four years of the association's history there were but two government land sales. One was held at Dubuque in 1840; the other at Marion in 1843. When the date of the first sale was announced, the Johnson County claim association elected a "bidder" and "assistant bidder" for townships 79 North, ranges five and six West of the fifth principal meridian (the township containing Iowa City and the one directly east). The settlers arrived at Dubuque early enough to make all necessary arrangements for the sale on Monday, August 3.

As Cyrus Sanders, a member of the association, related: "When the time came for the sale to begin, the crier stepped out on the platform, and inviting the bidder and assistant to take places on the platform beside him, took hold of one side of the plat," and began to sell the land in 80-acre pieces. "When he came to a tract with a name written on it, he would strike his hammer down, and give the name to the clerk. He thus proceeded, taking the sections in numerical order. The two townships were offered in less than 30 minutes. During this time the claimants stood in a compact semicircle in front of the platform in breathless silence, not a sound being heard but the crier's voice. The purchasers were then admitted, two or three at a time, to pay for the land and receive their certificates."

Soon after the sale at Marion, the Claim Association of Johnson County disbanded, for its usefulness was over. For four years it had kept a record of land holdings, prevented claim jumping, listed transfers, and kept order in the community until civil government was established. It was a remarkable demonstration of the capacity of the pioneers for self-government.

CHAPTER 3

SURVEYING THE CAPITAL SITE

Upon legislative approval for the location of the seat of government in Johnson County, Governor Lucas sent a memorial to Congress soliciting the donation of four sections of land upon which to locate the capital. In response to the Governor's memorial, Congress, by an act approved on March 3, 1839, "appropriated and granted to the Territory of Iowa, one entire section of land, of any of the surveyed public lands in said Territory, for the purpose of erecting thereon the public buildings for the use of the Executive and Legislative departments of the Government of the said Territory."

Immediately after marking the site, the commissioners petitioned the President for a special survey of the two townships in Johnson County, embracing the seat of government, in order to make the location as accurate as possible under the act of Congress as well as that of the Territory. In response to this Congress sent instructions by way of the land office to Surveyor General A. G. Ellis of the Wisconsin-Iowa district to survey two townships, in one of which the seat of government of the Territory of Iowa had been located.

In the meantime Chauncey Swan and John Ronalds, "meeting at the home of John Ronalds in Louisa County on June 27, 1839, ordered that Thomas Cox and John Frierson be employed to survey the town (Iowa City) and L. Judson to draw the necessary plats." This survey began on the first of July 1839. By July 4, Judson had completed his draft of the first map of Iowa City.

On the Fourth of July work on the survey of the town-site was suspended for the celebration of Independence Day on Capitol Square. The diary of Cyrus Sanders gives a contemporary's picture of the event. "About a hundred persons partook of the dinner which was served" on the grounds where the capitol of Iowa is to stand, and "the festivities of the day were enjoyed with the greatest hilarity and good feeling by all that were present and nothing occurred throughout the day to mar their enjoyment." A more complete account of the celebration was published by Mr. Sanders in the Iowa City Weekly Republican for September 22, 1880. The tale is presented with gusto.

"A good old-fashioned celebration' had been made by a group of patriotic citizens, in conjunction with Mr. Swan and his men." In the morning "the stars and stripes were unfurled to the breeze by attaching the flagstaff to the top of a tall young oak tree" that had been stripped of its branches. It was a flag of native production, made from the

garments of Mrs. Hannah Cole and her daughter Mrs. Ten Eyck. Fastened to the tree top by an agile young Indian boy, the United States flag waved over Iowa City until the flagpole was cut down to make way for the construction of the capitol. At a reasonable hour a "cavalcade" of pioneer settlers arrived with the dinner which had been prepared at the Indian trading house four miles down the river."

The after dinner program consisted of toasts and speeches, with portly Col. Thomas Cox presiding. Luke Douglass read the Declaration of Independence. Then came the orator of the day, Gen. John Frierson, who "mounted the rostrum to deliver the oration." The "rostrum" was merely the wagon that was used in bringing up the dinner from the trading house, and in the back part of which was a barrel of Cincinnati whiskey and a tin cup. The orator was pictured as a man of sandy complexion, "tall, square, raw-boned, hard-featured, stoop-shouldered, knock-kneed, and pigeon-toed." But there is no chronicle recording his eloquent speech.

After the Fourth of July celebration the survey, following the lines of Judson's town plat, was carried forward with vigor.

John Frierson was commissioned Deputy United States Surveyor to survey township 79 in ranges five and six. This was necessary to bring the townsite of Iowa City within the bounds of the surveyed lands of the United States and thus legitimatize the location of the seat of government.

Leaving Thomas Cox to complete the survey of the townsite of Iowa City, John Frierson began his work as township surveyor in July. With some employed help to supplement his own ingenuity, he finished the job speedily. Cyrus Sanders, who was one of Frierson's aides, has illuminated the official report with the following bit of tradition. "He (Frierson) ran all his lines without the aid of a flag-man; when on the prairie he would take a weed or a gopher-hill for a sight; when in the timber, a tree or a bush, or any other object that was convenient. As a consequence, he often lost sight of his object before he got to it." But, being expert at making up field notes, he made a report that "was received at the office of the Surveyor-General without question."

According to the Judson map the townsite of Iowa City was divided into blocks 320 feet square with lots 80 by 150 feet. All but six of the streets, which ran east and west and north and south according to the compass, were 80 feet wide and named rather than numbered. The exceptions were Iowa Avenue, which was 120 feet wide, and Washington, Jefferson, Clinton, Capital, and Madison streets which were each 100 feet wide.

Reservations were clearly marked. Capitol Square included about 12 acres and was laid out on the high land near the west boundary of the town. This spot commanded a view of the Iowa River on the west and nearly the whole of the town on the east. The block that years later was familiar to thousands as the site of University's East Hall, was to be the city park.

On the extreme eastern boundary of the section an outlot, east of Governor Street and lying between Iowa Avenue and Washington Street, was reserved as "Governor's Square." College Hill park was then designated on the map as "College Green." Three squares, each equal to the ordinary block, were reserved in different parts of the town as North, Center, and South Market. Four reservations of one-half block each were made for churches. One school reservation embraced half a block.

The ground next to the Iowa River, being reserved for public purposes, was called "Promenade." A narrow strip of ground bordering on the river and lying between Market and Davenport streets was marked "Lumber Yard." The south half of block 20 was termed on the plat "Mineral Springs," since it was supposed that valuable mineral springs were located at this point.

And that was Iowa City in July 1839 -- a map only, a paper plat of a town with reality only in the future.

Building the Stone Capitol

The "Notice for Bids" on the capitol, dated "Napoleon, May 4, 1839", appeared in the columns of the Iowa Territorial Gazette (Burlington) and the Iowa News (Dubuque). The quarry, from which rock was to be obtained for the foundations and a portion of the walls of the building, was opened in June by Acting Commissioner Chauncey Swan. A site was cleared early in July and by September men were busily preparing the ground for the foundations.

Of all the traditions that have added color to the history of the Old Stone Capitol, the legend of an ecclesiastical designer is the most appealing and has been the most enduring. The tale, which has had various "proofs", attributes the planning of Old Stone Capitol to Father Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli, a Dominican missionary priest who pioneered in religion on the Iowa frontier between the years 1830 and 1864. Devout, resourceful, and public-spirited, Father Mazzuchelli was a vital force in the communities where he lived. The origin of the legend that he, and he alone, made the plan for Old Stone Capitol is based chiefly upon two points. One of these concerned a tabernacle at Dubuque, Iowa, designed by him, that was thought by some observers to

resemble the dome of Old Stone Capitol. The other had to do with the winding stairway in the house of the Bishop of Dubuque -- also designed by Father Mazzuchelli -- which was not unlike the Old Stone Capitol's famous winding stairway. But the tale that Father Mazzuchelli conceived the Stone Capitol is a myth. To another man belongs the honor of giving to Iowa City its most prized building. This man was John Francis Rague, who while a resident of Springfield, Illinois, in the spring of 1839, entered into negotiations with Chauncey Swan concerning plans for the capitol of Iowa. The contract for the erection of the capitol was made on November 12 of that year and was terminated on July 18, 1840, when the walls of the building had reached the water table and the cornerstone had been laid. Attention has often been drawn to the striking resemblance between Iowa City's Old Stone Capitol and the Old State House at Springfield as being of particular interest and significance since Rague was supervising the erection of the latter building when called upon to plan the former. On the Fourth of July, 1839, the name of the architect, John F. Rague, was placed in the cornerstone of the Illinois State House, just as on the Fourth of July, 1840, it was inscribed on a scroll that was deposited in the cornerstone of the capitol at Iowa City.

Employed by Rague, the Skeen and McDonald Company began operations on the capitol early in the spring of 1840, hurrying the work so that the cornerstone could be laid on the Fourth of July. This was the occasion for a gala celebration, for the capital city was two months old on that day.

Chauncey Swan, the presiding official at the laying of the cornerstone, introduced Filander Lee, who in turn recited the contents of the copper box which was to be placed in the cornerstone.

There was one copy each of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Organic Law of the Territory of Iowa, the Laws enacted by the First Legislative Assembly, the Journal of the House of Representatives, and all newspapers published in the Territory, together with a scroll bearing the following inscription: "This cornerstone of the Capitol of Iowa Territory was laid on the Fourth Day of July Eighteen Hundred and Forty at Meridian." Also inscribed on the scroll were these names: "Martin Van Buren, President of the United States; Robert Lucas, Governor of Iowa; James Clarke, Secretary of the Territory of Iowa; Charles Mason, Joseph Williams, and Thomas S. Wilson, Judges of the Territory of Iowa; Charles Weston, Attorney General; Francis Gehon, United States Marshal; Jesse Williams, auditor of the Public Accounts; Thornton Bayless, Territorial Treasurer; John F. Rague, Architect of the capitol of Iowa; William Skeen and William McDonald, builders; Chauncey Swan, Robert Ralston, John Ronalds, Commissioners."

The solemn and impressive ceremony was followed by an elaborate dinner and toast program in which some 300 persons are said to have participated. In addition to the 13 regular toasts prepared by the committee, 15 volunteer toasts were proposed after dinner. They ran an impressive gamut of patriotic sentiment, opening with a toast to the Fourth of July -- "The day we celebrate -- sacred to every friend of liberty. While we hail it as our National birthday; may tyrants not desecrate it!" And others -- "The Tree of Liberty; may its branches flourish as evergreens, while the wintry winds of revolutions blow the requiem dirge o'er the grass-clad graves of millions of tyrannies."

"The United States -- firmly may they remain bound in one concentrated chain of amity, peace and concord; each preserving the other from the oppressive group of every tyrannical foreign foe."

In general, the volunteers came closer home for the subject matter of their tributes. Among several toasts to the young capitol was that proposed by Governor Lucas: "Iowa City -- may it become as conspicuous for intelligence and social virtue as it is for beauty of situation and enterprise of its inhabitants."

Lucas himself was the subject of a toast offered by J. Lorton. "Robert Lucas, who is at the helm of our government; may he rise as the morning star, and be as permanent as the North; may he live in the hearts of the people of Iowa when his presence is no more."

Thus another Fourth of July, symbolic as a milestone in the history of Johnson County, took its place among the other early-day relics, to become a treasured memory in the hearts of those pioneers who knew and loved Iowa City as a one-year-old because of the part they had played in her creation.

Shortly after this burst of festivity, however, the financial storm clouds which had been hovering over the project burst. The payment of \$10,000 to Skeen and McDonald terminated their contract, and Rague, upon receipt of a final award of \$150 for "working plans" faded permanently from the scene. Chauncey Swan found himself solely responsible for the prospective capitol of Iowa Territory, the stone walls of which had but reached the water table.

Working under a severe financial handicap, the acting commissioner pushed the construction of the state house as consistently as he could, but meanwhile he had encountered new discouragement in the form of an investigation authorized by the Legislative Assembly. Although Swan's conduct was reported above reproach the upshot of the matter was that in January 1841 the office of acting commissioner was

split into two new offices; that of Superintendent of Public Buildings, to which Swan was appointed, and that of "Territorial Agent," assigned to Jesse Williams.

By December, the walls of the capitol on the east front had been raised to the base of the cornice (35 feet from the ground), and the east portico had also been raised, while the remaining walls had reached a height of 30 feet.

Early in 1842 the building of the Stone Capitol saw William B. Snyder, who had been employed by Swan the previous summer as "superintendent of the roof", appointed to the position formerly held by Swan while John M. Coleman became new Territorial Agent. It was Snyder who opened a new and superior quarry about ten miles northeast of Iowa City, to furnish a better grade of material for the completion of the capitol.

Under Snyder's supervision some of the rock already laid in the walls was replaced with the new product, after which the roof was raised and covered with "Allegheny shingles" purchased in Cincinnati.

The Stone Capitol was built to face east and west, the stone caps above the east and west doors bearing the name IOWA in carved relief.

Although no architect's plan of the Old Stone Capitol was preserved, apparently the building became in form and structure what it originally was designed to be: 120 feet long and 60 feet wide; comprising a basement and two additional stories above the water table; a portico on both the east and the west front, each to be supported by four massive stone pillars rising to the top of the second story; a roof surmounted by a cupola or dome 40 feet high, uplifting 16 Corinthian columns crowned with decorative capitols beneath a spherical roof.

The capitol was never finished. With rough interior, semi-erected porticos and no cupola, it weathered nearly a decade. Legislative appropriations were few and far between, and when the commonwealth was born in 1846, it inherited a building that was incomplete and subject to undue deterioration because of its unprotected state. Even though the State appropriated nearly every year from two thousand to five thousand dollars toward the completion of its capitol, until the seat of government was removed to Des Moines in 1857, progress toward a finished building was halting and intermittent because there was never sufficient money at a time to complete any phase of the work.

Not until the period of 1921-24 was a serious effort made to restore and finish the historic capitol of Iowa; it

was then that a State appropriation of \$50,000 was obtained for the purpose of renovating and preserving this grand old landmark.

The Old Stone Capitol finally came to fulfil a dual function. On the one hand, officially and culturally it was the heart of the University of Iowa, and on the other a constant reminder of the Iowa City that was, and is, and promised to be.

CHAPTER 4

IOWA CITY -- UNINCORPORATED

"Founded by government, christened by government, located by government, its site donated by government, planned by government, its principal building erected by government, Iowa City was without a local government for 14 years." Thus, in the apt words of Benjamin Shambaugh, was Iowa City.

To be encompassed by the law of the United States and of Iowa seems to have been all the government Iowa City could absorb. In this unique town there was no local tribunal to say yea or nay about sanitary conditions, the use or misuse of property, improvements or their lack. And there was one persuasive reason that quieted the desire of an Iowa Cityan for a more intimate government than that of State or Nation, and that was freedom from local taxation.

Yet municipal incorporation was always hovering about, ready to enter the precincts were the nod of acceptance given. On January 13, 1841, came the first attempt at municipal incorporation. Henry Felkner, the representative from Johnson County in the Legislative Assembly, introduced a bill for "An Act to incorporate Iowa City." The bill was promptly passed by both branches and approved two days later. The inhabitants of Iowa City were to vote on it the first Monday of March, 1841, but what they either did or did not do is unrecorded.

Then followed a series of "I beseech you!" "No, we won't!" The Legislative Assembly received the Act of 1841 and asked another consideration by the town. But no, again it did not wish to be incorporated. Two years passed, then in 1844, the records of the Assembly show that the act to incorporate Iowa City was once more revised and for the third time the people were offered a charter by the Territorial Legislature. A called town meeting rejected the charter by acclamation. In the year 1851 the Third General Assembly tried "its hand and set seal on an act to incorporate Iowa City." Rejection must have ensued, but the citizens had grown so automatic in rejection there was not even interest enough to record the refusal.

Once the townsite had been a beauty spot of the untouched wilderness, but carelessness had changed it to sorry ugliness. Streets were unpaved and ungraded. In dry weather they became a desert of dust; in wet, bogs of mud in which both oxen and wagons sank to mired helplessness. No traveler went without his fence rail or light log for just such emergencies. Sidewalks were rare and when found were perched upon stilts to escape the dust or mud. Untaxed dogs

roamed the streets, a good 150 of them. But the dogs did not run alone for hogs also occupied the entire town, rooting in the mud or sleeping on the sidewalks. And not infrequently Capitol Square and the City Park were grazed by the village livestock.

One day in the early fifties, a barkeeper in Iowa City emptied a pan of cherries into the gutter -- cherries that had been put into a barrel of whiskey to give it a new taste. Soon a family of pigs wandered down the street and, discovering the cherries, fell upon them ravenously. The whole lot was devoured by the huge mother pig and her squealing family of 14. The effect of the cherries on the pigs was almost immediate. They reeled back and forth, fell on their noses, chased their tails, all to the accompaniment of riotous squeals. At the precise moment when the Sons of Temperance were adjourning from a called meeting in one of the buildings, Mother Pig reeled over into the gutter with a drunken snort, leaving her rum-filled babies to ogle the "Sons" with waggish little eyes and cavort in silly antics over their feet. "Even the beasts," exclaimed one of the horrified "Sons." Perhaps it was only coincidence that the following week saw in Iowa City the inauguration of a "Society for Moral Reform."

When an attempt was made to start a town government it met with failure. Officers were chosen: James Robinson, Mayor; Anson Hart, secretary; Thomas Ricord, treasurer. But the people of Iowa City were unaccustomed to obeying orders from town officers. Mandates from town Marshal Ebenezer Sangster to clean up the streets and alleys were ignored. Moreover, when the officers, desperate for money to run the town government, levied a tax, the people in high dudgeon at such impertinence refused to pay it. Forthwith the officers, disgusted at being left without support, dropped their official duties and returned to their ordinary pursuits.

At long last, in January 1858 when the legislature for the fifth time proffered articles of incorporation to the inhabitants of Iowa City, the people turned a listening ear. Differing from the charter of 1851 only in providing for the popular election of all city officers, the charter of 1853 was accepted by the citizens. The unincorporated status of the capital city of Iowa came to an end on Wednesday, April 6, 1853, when the duly elected officers took the oath of office. On the evening of the same day the officers held their first meeting in the State House.

The pressing need for local government was proved by the number of ordinances almost immediately prepared by the city council. Ordinances were passed: "to provide for the cleaning of streets, roads, and sidewalks; to prevent nuisances; to prevent obstruction in the streets, roads, and alleys; to prevent shooting within the city limits; to tax

dogs and prevent them from running at large; to prevent trespasses upon the public grounds of the city; to establish the grade of streets; to appoint a street commissioner; to prevent the stacking of hay within the city limits; to suppress drinking houses; to preserve the peace; to prevent the desecration of the Sabbath; to prevent fast riding and driving within the corporate limits; to suppress gambling; and to provide for a board of health."

A scorching remark in the Iowa Capital Reporter concerning the practice of pasturing horses on Capitol Square helped to pass an ordinance that declared, "horses, jacks, mules, swine, and cattle, except milch cows from the first of April to November first, running at large within the limits of Iowa City are nuisances."

When law came to Johnson County, prisoners could break jail far more easily than they could escape the wrath of the citizen vigilantes. The frontiersmen usually accomplished by hook or crook their object of ridding the land of undesirables. In the main, justice was done.

First of all there was the county commissioners' court, which met March 29, 1839 at Napoleon, with Commissioners Henry Felkner and Abner Wolcott, Sheriff S. C. Trowbridge, and Luke Douglass, the clerk. This was the court that adopted the eagle side of a dime as the temporary county seal.

The district court was created by an act of the Territorial Legislature of Iowa January 21, 1839, and the counties constituting the second judicial district were: Louisa, Muscatine, Linn, Cedar, Jones, Johnson, and Slaughter (the last since changed to Washington). Secretary William B. Conway appointed Joseph Williams of Pennsylvania district judge. Williams named Luke Douglass clerk of the court.

The first district court in Johnson County was opened May 13, 1839, in the old Gilbert trading house near Napoleon. Meantime the May grand jury was called for the United States, but found no business and was dismissed. Immediately the jurors were recalled for the Territory of Iowa -- and found one true bill against Andrew J. Gregg, a horse thief who had escaped from a Michigan jail into Iowa, and who was known as a member of the "Stotenburg gang." But Johnson County had no jail and the settlers had their hands full taking turns at guarding the prisoner. The record of Clerk Douglass tells that county commissioners met to "decide upon some plan for the security and safe keeping of Andrew J. Gregg."

Gregg, the first prisoner ever taken and held in Johnson County, was charged with swindling and robbing Joseph Eagen in a horse trade at Chase's trading house. Gregg and three companions gave Eagen counterfeit money and a horse in

exchange for his own animal, then followed him on his way home, knocked him off the horse and ran off with it down the river again. Eagen notified the sheriff. Three of the gang escaped, but Gregg was captured near Chase's place.

Gregg's handsome appearance awakened such sympathy for him in the community that the soft-hearted could not tolerate the idea of degrading him. This sympathy only made a hard job harder and in the end led to the escape of Johnson County's first legal prisoner.

Sheriff Trowbridge had devised an effective handcuff -- a stout hickory stick with smooth slots in the ends about 40 inches apart, into which Gregg's wrists were laid and bound with deerskin thongs. Gregg could not reach his teeth; nor, since the thongs were sunk in notches cut into the stick, could he chafe them off against a stone or a tree. Later the sheriff obtained iron anklets, with padlock and log chain attached, from a West Liberty blacksmith. He used to take Gregg with him to the fields each day. There the prisoner would lie chained to a tree, but comfortable on a buffalo robe, with a deck of cards and a Bible for entertainment, while nearby the sheriff broke prairie or built rail fences.

Eventually popular sentiment forced the sheriff to rely on guards rather than on irons for Gregg's safe keeping. We are told that Judge Joseph Williams, a Methodist class leader, but an ardent violinist, was accustomed to play for dancing at Chase's tavern (but sitting with his back to the dancers so as not to witness their sinful gaiety) and that on one such occasion the prisoner Gregg danced to the judge's fiddling! Philip Clark has revealed that when His Honor found out that he had been playing for Gregg, the music ceased abruptly.

One rescue attempt by Gregg's fellow gangsters failed, but one day he suddenly drew a pistol and Bowie knife and walked away from his guardsman, Stephen Chase. But his case had already cost the county \$123.53, its whole year's revenue, and the people were glad enough to see Gregg get away and cost them no more.

Juries had plenty of room for deliberation in Johnson County's early days. When Judge Williams instructed the Sheriff to "conduct the jury to a suitable place of retirement" no building was available, and so they went out to the prairie, where a half section of land between the Gilbert trading house and the Napoleon town site was reserved as a jury room. Some of the grand jurors wanted to go fishing, but the Sheriff forbade such trifling: they might play cards or drink whiskey, but to go fishing would never do for a "grand jury." That privilege was especially reserved for

the "petit jury", for which distinction a boundary was marked between the grand and petit "rooms", with all the river frontage on the petit side.

Frequently the community "vigilance committee" dealt with offenders without waiting for legal process. In one instance a prisoner was taken from the officers and whipped and choked until he confessed his crime; in another an unpopular citizen escaped from his captors, jumped into the Iowa River nearby, and drowned himself. Again, the settlers tracked down two counterfeiters, organized an impromptu court, sentenced the pair to be flogged, and executed sentence. The stealing of money, livestock, or land was a serious offense in those early days of hard-won livelihoods.

The sale of town lots in Iowa City had brought in the sum of \$2,903.50 by the ninth of October, 1841. With this amount to draw upon, the commissioners resolved to begin the erection of necessary county buildings -- a jail and a courthouse.

Since experience led the commissioners to build the jail first, plans were drafted and contractor James Trimble erected a small brick building on the corner of Clinton and Prentiss streets. While the building was better than an ordinary frame house, it was too frail for jail purposes. Prisoners escaped through the walls until the old jail was sold in 1864 to C. H. Berryhill for \$60.

The first Johnson County courthouse was built at Napoleon, the original county seat, and was a crude cabin hastily put together. The first county courthouse erected in Iowa City stood on lot eight in block eight of the county seat quarter-section. This was a brick structure, 28 by 56 feet, two stories in height, and was intended as a makeshift only. The building was completed in 1843 or 1844 at a cost of less than \$4,000. It was often referred to as "Trimble's Smokehouse" because the flues in the chimneys did not carry the smoke out of the building. The night after the election of 1859, while the votes were being counted, the building took fire and burned to the ground.

The third county courthouse, the second to be built in Iowa City, was a substantial brick structure erected in 1856 or 1857. The jail was in the basement of the building, as was also the sheriff's residence. A small building was later built at the back of the courthouse for storing the clerk's records. The fourth courthouse, built of stone, was the first building erected in the courthouse square as it was later known. The cornerstone of this building, called "the new courthouse", was laid December 2, 1899, by Judge

Martin J. Wade. The new jail was built at the same time. The total cost of the courthouse was \$111,000, that of the jail, \$14,000, and of the heating plant, \$3,000.

On May 24, 1875, the city council purchased a lot from Peter M. Musser for \$2,000 as the site of a city hall, and construction was begun in 1881. The work was completed by New Year's Day, 1882, at a cost of less than \$20,000, including the lot. The year 1941 saw the city hall still standing on its first site at the corner of Linn and Washington streets, its red bricks weathered to soft rose, the town clock still booming the hours from the slim wooden tower.

CHAPTER 5

FROM WATERWAY TO AIRWAY

When Johnson County was first settled all roads from every direction led to Iowa City. The sparsely settled country around gave small promise of its future fertility and great wealth. As soon as Iowa City was founded it became the trading point for settlers, their nearest market and point of distribution for supplies that were teamed from the Mississippi River, or brought up the Iowa River by boat.

No sooner had the pioneers entered the wilderness and staked out their claims than three differently designated roads appeared on the map of the Iowa country -- Military (or National) road, Territorial road, and the local township or county road.

In 1839 Congress authorized the construction of a road from Dubuque to the northern boundary of Missouri, directly through Iowa City, crossing the Iowa River on a line with Iowa Avenue. Usually known as the National road, it was a United States military highway built to facilitate the movement of the United States Dragoons. The stretch of the National road from Iowa City to the Mississippi was marked originally by Lyman Dillon who, with a huge breaking plow and eight yoke of oxen, plowed a furrow 28 inches wide all the way from Iowa City to Dubuque, a distance of 100 miles. This was the mail road to Dubuque and the trail the settler had to follow if he would avoid the low ground and possible delay in "miring down" with his supplies.

The early natural roads were marked with tall poles to guide the travelers through the deep ravine grass in summer and the equally deep snow in winter. The later roads, however, were surveyed and marked for their whole distance by setting stakes across the prairie every 300 yards and by blazing trees through the forest. Mile posts were established and clearly marked with a marking iron in regular procession from the beginning of the road to its termination. At every angle in the road a post was set up or a tree marked with a marking iron. The standard width of the Territorial road was 70 feet.

All the roads were frequently blocked by snow drifts in winter, rendered all but impassable by the mud of late February, March, April, late October, and November, and left open but deep in dust during the summer months.

The Iowa River was a beautiful and companionable stream with clear water mirroring the encircling bluffs, but when

the settlers had to cross from one shore to the other its rugged charm only made the work harder.

As early as 1838-39 Benjamin Miller had a ferry at Iowa City and was ferrying men, teams, and wagons on his flatboat. His crossing was near the mouth of Ralston Creek (below the site of the railroad bridge). Miller had no license even though the Assembly had made license compulsory for such a privilege. The first license to keep a ferry was granted to William Sturgis and Luke Douglass on March 6, 1840, and this became known as the "Sturgis Ferry." The fee was five dollars a year; while Andrew D. Stephen paid \$15 a year for his license, granted the same day, "to keep a ferry across the Iowa River at the point where the National road crosses said river." That was at the foot of Iowa Avenue near the point where the bridge later spanned the stream.

The commissioners ordered the following rates for ferries throughout the country: For a footman, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; one horse and wagon, 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; yoke of oxen and wagon, 50¢; one span of horses, 50¢; each horse and man, 25¢; each additional horse or yoke of oxen, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; each head of neat cattle in droves, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; sheep and hogs per head, 3¢. It is noteworthy that within seven years, rates were reduced 50 per cent or more.

The first regularly operated ferry at Iowa City was that of John D. Abel, who was licensed October 3, 1840, and did business at the Iowa Avenue location designated in the Stephen grant. A year later he transferred his ferry to Pleasant Arthur, who kept it until 1844. After Arthur's death his administrators, Emily and Gilman Folsom, were given licenses; and later Winthrop Folsom, until bridges outmoded ferryboats. Meantime another ferry of the forties was operated by Enos Metcalf, licensed in April 1844, "to keep a Skiff Ferry across the Iowa River at the Dubuque Ford, near the southeast corner of the Iowa City plot."

The luxury of bridges was not considered possible when the roads were first built. Roads followed the high land wherever they could, avoiding sloughs and swampy ground, and when crossing had to be made streams were forded and teams doubled on soft ground. The lack of such improvements as bridges came partly because of inadequate funds but likewise because no one could determine which point needed the bridging most. In 1842 an appropriation of "fifty-seven dollars and sixty-nine cents" was made "for a bridge on Dubuque Street in Iowa City in the county seat." The bridge across Ralston Creek on Washington Street was first built in 1847, under the supervision of Dr. Henry Murray, out of material purchased with an allowance of \$30 from road funds in the hands of the county treasurer.

The great problem now was the building of a bridge over the Iowa River to care for the immense traffic that began to pass east and west through the county. Toll bridges were the first proposals. Dr. Enos Metcalf built the first one in 1855. The Folsom pontoon bridge followed this, and was located on or near the site of the later Iowa Avenue bridge called the "Centennial Bridge" because it was built in 1876. After the pontoon bridge, a wooden truss bridge was built on the same site. Many private subscriptions were made for the erection of these first bridges, as the county had not sufficient funds to warrant full payments for so many improvements.

During the territorial and early state period at Iowa City, there was no lack of stagecoach service; it connected by lines with every important point in Iowa.

During the first years the stage extended slowly because people had depended so largely upon water transportation that the rivers continued to be favored as the cheaper and easier way of travel. But the rivers did not go everywhere. The Concord and Troy coaches were used on the main traveled lines in Iowa from about 1837 and were the most colorful and comfortable of all the stagecoaches. The vehicles were stoutly built of oak braced with iron bands, oval in shape but flattened on top for the carrying of baggage. Within were three crosswise seats, each accommodating three passengers. The driver sat on an elevated seat in front of the body, while at the rear was a triangular leather covered space called the "boot" to hold what baggage was not placed on top or carried in the special forward boot. The body of the coach was suspended upon thorough-braces composed of heavy leather straps. This leather swing, in lieu of springs, permitted the coach to rock slightly forward and back, partly absorbing some of the shocks.

The coach body was usually painted in bright colors of red, yellow, and green, and the panels were adorned with paintings of landscapes, or of noted historical characters. The interiors were painted and upholstered, and each individual coach carried the name of some famous personage.

These large nine or more passenger coaches were found only on routes where passenger and freight traffic warranted their splendor. The branch lines saw only such modest vehicles as the "hacks", derisively named "jerkeys." These had no doors, but merely an open space above the lower panelling through which the passenger projected himself in or out. Another vehicle, from necessity more common in Iowa than either coach or hack, was the "mud wagon", a modification of the early farm wagon, crudely built but sturdy enough to withstand the rough trail-like roads. To protect travelers and merchandise, these stages were covered with a cloth top. The passengers sat on hard benches that ran

across the wagon. Those in the rear seats had to climb over the other passengers to get to their places, and for this reason the benches were made without backs. The traveler clung to anything at hand to keep from being dashed against the top, or the sides of the wagon, or against his fellow sufferers.

The wheels were held by wooden pins which often broke off or slipped out, throwing the passengers to the floor or out of the wagon altogether. But its broader tires and larger wheels gave it an advantage over the coach or hack on the quagmire roads.

In the winter season the stages could battle snow and drifts but weakly, and to carry on the stage service it was usually necessary to use open sleighs or stage sleds.

Even with every advantage the stagecoach was a fair-weather vehicle, many lines had to be abandoned during the bad months of winter, and occasionally during the mud of a wet spring. But even in dry weather stagecoach travel was a hardship. The oppressive heat of summer, the intense cold of winter, the necessity of walking long distances because of all but impassable roads, and the exasperations arising from old and unrepai red coaches, divested such travel of any romance. Adventure all too often awaited the traveler in constant danger of an "upset" or a "turnover." In western language an upset referred to an accident in which the coach remained where it fell, whereas in a turnover a coach rolled over, bouncing and pitching down a bank. Accidents were of common occurrence, though serious wrecks were few because of the slow speed of the coach and its sturdy construction. Too, the windows were rarely glassed, but were furnished with shutters or blinds.

While prices for stagecoach travel obviously varied for the time of year and for different areas, even the lowest regular fares averaged five cents a mile, while the highest averaged ten cents. Comparison between stage and steamboat fares, and even railroad fares then and now, shows the high cost of stage travel.

Table of stagecoach fares:

<u>1842</u>	
Keokuk to Burlington	\$3.00
Bloomington (Muscatine) to Iowa City	1.50
<u>1854</u>	
Keokuk to Des Moines	10.00
<u>1857</u>	
Iowa City to Des Moines	10.00
Des Moines to Council Bluffs	11.00

As early as 1840 a stagecoach line between Iowa City and Bloomington was operated by Trink and Walker. Tri-weekly trips were the rule, at a three dollar adult fare, half fare for children. Trunks and baggage were carried for \$3 per hundredweight. Coaches at first were drawn by two-horse teams; later the company introduced four-horse coaches. In the early 1840's Swan's hotel was headquarters for nearly all of the stage lines running into Iowa City.

In September 1842, Beers and St. John advertised a tri-weekly coach service to Bloomington at a rate of \$1.50 for adults. Two months later C. Teeple announced weekly service from Dubuque to Iowa City -- leaving Dubuque Mondays at 4 a. m., and arriving in Iowa City the next evening; then leaving Iowa City Thursday noon and arriving at Dubuque Saturday evening. There was no traveling at night on this route, and the fare was \$4. Only on the main line could a traveler find daily service and most of the passengers were men, as women rarely made the overland journey.

In our later day of air mail and special delivery, teletype and wirephoto, it is difficult to realize how completely the early settlers of Johnson County were cut off from the outside world. "No news" was still "good news", for only bad news inspired the posting of letters and the arrival of one was as likely as not to signify a recent death in the family. Communication was so slow and uncertain that it was used only for business purposes or for tragic necessity.

Iowa City first received its mail by wagon or on horseback; later the mail contracts were to furnish an important source of income for local stagecoach lines. In 1844 and 1845 mail routes were opened extensively by the Government. While the lines east and west were the most important because of the heavy traffic, the transportation of mail and passengers was provided for in many directions. The post office department in Washington received proposals for carrying mail on all the routes in the territory, and in these contracts the time of the trip was distinctly specified. For instance: the distance from Galena, Illinois, to Iowa City was 90 miles. The trip was to be made once a week. The contractor must leave Galena every Monday at 6 p. m.; leave Iowa City Thursday at 6 a. m., and reach Galena again the next Saturday at 6 p. m. The average pay was \$750 a year, and the net return after paying expenses was about \$1.50 a day.

In 1844 the express business began in the county. J. Parker was the first entrant in the field and carried on until 1853, when the American and United States express companies took over the business and the railroad reached this section. Soon they absorbed Parker's business. The stage

began to handle express in 1853; 1854 and 1855 were banner years for the stages since immigration had begun in earnest. However, just as soon as the Mississippi and Missouri railway track was laid to Iowa City, the stage business began to dwindle and soon became a thing of the past.

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During the pioneer period the Mississippi River was the principal avenue of trade and travel to and from the Iowa country. Wagoned or stagecoached by ox teams or horses from the interior towns of the territory to the Mississippi landings, Iowa passengers and produce were transported by water down to St. Louis and New Orleans, and by way of the Ohio to eastern states.

As early as 1836 Lt. Albert Lea had pronounced the Iowa River suitable for steamboat travel in his analysis of it as a water course. "The current," he said, "is rapid: sandbars and snags are frequent; and the channel often changes position. In these respects it is said much to resemble the Missouri River. It is believed that the main river can be easily navigated during three or four months of the year, by steamboats of light draught, as far up as Poweshiek's Village (close to the site of Iowa City), a distance of 100 miles."

On Sunday, of June 20, 1841, the puffing and whistle of a steamboat were heard on the Iowa River as the Ripple approached the ferry landing at the foot of Capitol Square. The town was caught up in a wave of enthusiasm. The editor of the Iowa City Standard said in his discussion of it, "This arrival has effectually changed the relation in which we formerly stood to the other towns in this territory. We are no longer dependent on the towns of the Mississippi for our imports -- nor are we subjected to the labor and expense of drawing across the country all articles brought from abroad. We have now a situation in many respects superior to any in the territory."

Following the Sunday landing a celebration of this "Arrival Extraordinary" was arranged for the next day. The crew and passengers of the Ripple were invited as guests of honor to a dinner at the National Hotel. J. B. Newhall, the well-known author of Sketches of Iowa, was present to deliver the principal address. Captain D. Jones who commanded the Ripple on its voyage to Iowa City responded to Mr. Newhall's toast and both men spoke eloquently on the roseate future promised by this opening of the Iowa River to navigation.

It was ten months before another steamboat came up the Iowa as far as Iowa City. The Rock River, a medium-sized boat commanded by Captain Thayer, arrived at the landing

Thursday morning, April 21, 1842. On that same day the Rock River made an excursion to the stone quarry some ten or twelve miles up the river. The trip was made by about 150 people, 40 of whom were ladies, attired in their finest.

The steamboat Agatha left Burlington Saturday, March 9, 1844, arrived at Iowa City at noon on Tuesday, March 12, and reported that the Iowa River was in fine steamboating condition -- which it must have been!

On the trip up the river the Agatha met no difficulties. During the days she steamed along, tying up each night. She brought to Iowa City a considerable amount of freight and received for the return trip a cargo consisting of pork, hemp, wheat, and other things besides some fifteen or twenty passengers for St. Louis. The cargo might have been larger had not so much pork and wheat been "wagoned" to parts of the Mississippi -- owing to the uncertainty of steamboat transportation on the Iowa.

The fourth steamboat arrival was on Sunday, June 2, 1844 -- the Maid of Iowa, commanded by Captain Daniel Repsher (or Repshell). Built by Moffet and Jones at Augusta, Iowa in 1842, and launched on the Skunk River, the Maid of Iowa was a 60-ton craft, 115 feet long, 18 4/10 feet wide, with a 3-foot hold. She is said to have been the first steamboat built in Iowa -- which accounts for her name.

On Monday following his arrival at Iowa City, Captain Repsher "politely favored our citizens with an excursion a few miles up and down the river, and on Monday evening the boat left with a full freight for herself and a keel attached, of corn and other produce." The "keel attached" refers to a keelboat which, being towed, was grounded on the way down the river. Swung broadside to the current, it was split in two and a full thousand bushels of corn, belonging to Judge Pleasant Harris, was tipped off into the river.

Arriving in Iowa City a second time (on Friday, July 5, 1844) the Maid of Iowa departed the next day with a cargo of produce for Nauvoo, Illinois. The third trip of this boat was in September of the same year. Leaving Iowa City on September 2, the day after arrival, she was loaded with wheat for St. Louis. It was understood that she was to make regular trips between Iowa City and St. Louis during the fall. But misfortune barred her way. On September 26 the Standard published an item under the heading, "A Steamboat Wanted," in which the public was informed that the Maid of Iowa was tied up by the Sheriff at St. Louis, while thousands of bushels of wheat and some passengers waited in vain for her release. Dr. Wm. J. Peterson is credited with the statement that the Maid of Iowa was owned by Joseph Smith of

Nauvoo, who held her "in trust for the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." The Sheriff held her in connection with a litigation concerning the church.

The Emma, a stern wheeler built at Pittsburgh in 1842, appeared at the Iowa City landing on Saturday, June 22, 1844, under the command of Captain Thomas. She was said to be the largest steamboat to have visited Iowa City, going on record as a 60-ton boat, 127 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 3 feet deep. On the trip to Iowa City the Emma "was freighted with salt, groceries, and so on, mostly on commission." The editor of the Capitol Reporter declared also "the time is not far distant when our flourishing young city will be the shipping mart for a large district of country around it."

The signs of the times were good for a continuation of river freight at this period of development. In the following spring the Iowa City merchants had collected hundreds of tons of freight for river shipment and were anxiously awaiting the steamboats. At about this time came the announcement of the launching of a new boat from the yards of Messrs. Robbins and Company, a half mile below the city. This was an occasion of importance since it was the first launching from the boatyards at Iowa City. Shares in this craft, at \$25 each, were offered to the public in June 1845.

In the issue of the Capitol Reporter for March 18, 1846, one may find an advertisement announcing "A Regular Burlington and Iowa City Packet." The "new and splendid steamer Reveille, Samuel Acheson, Master, will run as a Regular semi-weekly Packet from Burlington to Iowa City; leaving on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a. m. For freight or passage apply on board."

By 1847 boat-building had become a profitable business for a considerable number of citizens: some half dozen flatboats were under construction at the boatyard. By the spring of 1848 a large barge had been built. Its measurements ran to 130 feet in length and 21 feet of beam, with a capacity of a 180 tons. Hutchinson and Roan were the builders.

About the middle of the 1850's the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad reached Iowa City. Thereafter much of the trade and travel deserted the wagons and steamboats and took to the rails. In April 1866, the shipyards at Iowa City were jubilant at launching their first great vessel, which was to carry freight on the Iowa River. The steamboat Iowa City left port for its first voyage on Friday, July 6, 1866, but after several runs she was destroyed by fire and the capital's hopes of becoming an important port on a navigable river vanished in the flames and smoke. That was the end of Iowa City's career as a steamboat town.

While Iowa City was hoping to become a center of steamboat transportation on the frontier, railroads were gradually moving westward toward Chicago and the Mississippi. In 1852, while ox-teams from the surrounding country were slowly making their way to Iowa City, the iron rails entered Chicago. When would they reach the Mississippi? When would the railroad come to Iowa City? Those questions were on every tongue.

Previous to 1850 all efforts had been toward the improvement of the inland waterways but in this year, when the Fourth General Assembly convened at Iowa City, (December 8, 1852) Governor Hempstead recommended that the Legislature "urge Congress to make a grant of public lands to aid in the construction of railroads in Iowa."

The earliest agitation for a railroad in Iowa was for a north and south line from Dubuque to Keokuk via Iowa City. As the capital city of the State, Iowa City was on practically all the lines projected within its borders. The report of the engineer who had made the survey of the route of the proposed road was presented to the General Assembly with the result that by a joint resolution Congress was memorialized for a grant of lands to aid in the construction of the proposed railroad. In 1851 the road was granted a right-of-way through Iowa. That the Des Moines and Keokuk Railway would go through Johnson County its citizens were certain; the trouble was that every town in the Black Hawk Purchase was equally certain the track would come its way also.

This coil of circumstance thrust the railroad into financial expenditure beyond its treasury and the labyrinthine loops and curves its tracks would have to make to reach the stations of its route labelled the accommodating railroad the "Ram's Horn." Perhaps it was just as well that the Ram's Horn never escaped from its paper map.

The dream of a transcontinental line seems to have led the promoters in Iowa to set Council Bluffs as the destination of their proposed railroads. There, in some future time, they hoped to connect with a project to extend the iron rails to the Pacific. This was the ambition of the Lyons Iowa Central Railroad. Known as the "Air Line" because of its direct route, it was the chief competitor of the Mississippi and Missouri in 1853. But the only thing that came of the Lyons Iowa Central Railroad was a grade and a series of deep cuts.

Its collapse was a severe stroke not only to the locating engineers but to the construction men as well. Between Lyons and Iowa City much of the roadbed had been completed. This grading work had been done by a large gang of Irish

immigrants brought in from New York and Canada for the purpose. These men with their families, some 2,000 persons in all, were now stranded at Lyons and in its vicinity, practically helpless and enduring great hardship. The railway company had supply stores at Lyons from which groceries, dry goods, and miscellaneous articles were issued to the graders in lieu of their wages but these supplies were exhausted long before the debt was paid. It was from these stores that the enterprise so proudly started as the "Air Line" came derisively to be known as "The Calico Road."

Since Iowa City, the seat of government, was regarded as an important point on the way to the Missouri River, a group of Iowa City citizens met and organized the Davenport and Iowa City Railroad Company on October 14, 1850. James P. Carleton was elected president; Le Grand Byington treasurer and Henry W. Lathrop, secretary. Their object was to be prepared to connect with the road coming from the East by way of Rock Island.

On January 1, 1853, the Mississippi Railroad Company organized with various prominent Davenport men as members of the company. At a meeting in Chicago in May of the same year the Mississippi and Missouri made plans to construct a road from Davenport to Iowa City. Later they took over the Davenport and Iowa City Railroad with all its rights, stock, and franchises. To survey the route through the Iowa country, Peter A. Dey was appointed chief engineer. With Greenville M. Dodge as his principal assistant, Dey crossed the Mississippi and conducted the surveys that reached Iowa City on May 26, 1853.

On June 30, 1855, the Davenport Gazette announced that the first iron rail had been laid in Iowa. In July the locomotive Antoine Le Claire was ferried across the Mississippi to Davenport. At midnight, December 31, 1855, just before the dawn of a new year, the railroad arrived at Iowa City.

The citizens were so eager for the early arrival of the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad that they had sent a delegation to Davenport with offers to subscribe for stock in the enterprise and a bonus of \$50,000 provided a train of cars drawn by a steam locomotive should reach the depot at Iowa City on or before December 31, 1855. The management of the railroad, fired by the enthusiasm of the Iowa Cityans, had promised to push the construction crew to the utmost.

By 9 o'clock on the evening of December 31, 1855, the iron rails lay within 1,000 feet of the Iowa City depot. Midnight was the deadline! A crowd of citizens rushed to join the regular track layers in their effort to complete the work. The weather was bitter cold, many degrees below

zero, with a hard wind from the north. Huge wood fires were kindled along the line to warm the men and to light the way. By 11 o'clock the trackmen had reached a little hill not more than two hundred feet from the depot. Exhausted, numb with cold, the workmen forced themselves to a mighty effort to complete the last lap. Then the engine froze up. Officers and volunteers hastily laid rails on temporarily placed ties. The workmen and volunteer citizens with pinch-bars and outstretched arms pushed and pulled the frozen engine to the end of the track "just as the church bells began to welcome the incoming New Year." Rousing cheers rang out from the crowd of workmen. Charles Strickles, the engineer, fell unconscious beside his frozen engine.

The people of Iowa City were wild with joy. January 3, 1856 was set for a formal celebration of the great event. At 9 o'clock in the morning an excursion train of seven cars filled with guests left Davenport for the capital city. Upon arrival they were greeted by the ringing of bells, salutes of artillery, and the shouting of citizens.

The visitors from Davenport, Rock Island, and the East were met at the depot and escorted to the capitol, where they listened to an address of welcome in the Hall of Representatives. That evening men and women partook of an elaborate supper provided by the women of Iowa City.

The tables were decorated with cakes in pyramids two and three feet high. Over the speaker's stand was an arch festooned with evergreens, in the midst of which were balls of cotton imitating snowballs. A candle showed at every pane in the windows, from the basement to the cupola.

After supper came toasts, and later there was dancing to the music of the band. Cyrus Sanders' Journal tells us that between one and two in the morning "the last of music died away and the last footfall of this merry company resounded through the corridors of the capitol." So generous were the subscriptions of the citizens that there remained nearly five hundred dollars after all the bills were paid.

Following the arrival of the railroad there was a big rise in the price of real estate in Iowa City, as population rose. Iowa City had gained a place on the map of rail transportation and travel, and for nearly a decade this was the main western terminus of the road.

In 1866 the property of the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad was acquired by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company of Iowa, a firm that had been incorporated May 28, 1866, to absorb the old M. and M. Railroad. The Iowa Branch was combined with the Rock Island on August 20, 1866.

For over fifty years a branch railroad existed at Iowa City that connected with mainline trains for the north at Elmira, nine miles above Iowa City. Various railroads in turn owned the "Branch," chiefly the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railways. With the coming of the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Interurban Railway, it lost its passenger income and highway truckers took its freight trade. The old Burlington Street depot of the defunct Branch became the office of the Railway Express Company.

For years plans had been in the air for an electric interurban railway between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. The first electric cars made the trip between the two towns. The year 1941 saw the "Interurban" continuing its widely used hourly service.

The first airport in Iowa City was located one and one-half miles south of the town. Established in 1919 as a temporary landing field for the pathfinding planes which were making preliminary flights from Chicago to the West Coast, this airport was first named "Smith Field" in honor of Walter S. Smith, an aviator who lost his life blazing the trail across the country. The name was changed later to Iowa City Municipal Airport.

At first the landing field was rented property, but in 1920 Iowa City voted a bond issue for the purchase of the airport, paying \$56,610 for it.

After extensive negotiations the city signed an agreement with the Boeing Air Transport Company whereby the company was to receive free landing privileges for 50 years (1930-1980) in return for its improvements on the field. These improvements included a lighting system, two 2,000-foot runways, grading, draining, and various other works. Boeing (later the United Air Lines) constructed the hangar.

Under the Iowa Emergency Relief Administration and Civil Works Administration additional improvements were made on the airport. These consisted largely in grading and draining.

Between September 21, 1936 and September 27, 1938, the Work Projects Administration aided in the construction of a 3,950-foot bituminous runway and in the repairing of a 2,500-foot runway as well as in other works. The cost amounted to \$73,305 in WPA funds and \$17,456 in city funds. The additional runways required more ground, and to meet the demand the city purchased a 44-acre plot, 25 acres of which had formed the south part of the old county fair grounds, where the State Fair was held in 1860 and 1864.

Another project, begun October 10, 1940, was one of the first three National Defense Projects in the State of Iowa. Owing to this status, the sponsor's contribution was permitted to be less than for a normal WPA project. The federal allocation was \$130,694 to the city's \$19,000.

Up to June 21, 1941, workers on this project had completed an east-west runway, 150 feet wide and 3,600 feet long, and had surfaced the north-south runway, which was 100 feet wide and 3,300 feet long.

CHAPTER 6

THE MORMON HANDCART EXPEDITION

Near Iowa City, on U. S. Highway No. 6, a boulder by the side of the road bears a bronze tablet inscribed with these words: "South of This Boulder On The Banks Of Clear Creek Is The Site Of The Mormon Brigade Camp. In 1856 Some Thirteen Hundred European Immigrants, Converted To The Mormon Faith, Detained At Iowa City, The End Of The Railroad. Encamped Here They Made Handcarts and Equipment For Their Journey On Foot To Salt Lake City."

By the middle fifties the tide of Mormon converts bound for Utah had become so great that the officers of the church could no longer provide wagons and oxen to transport all the needy emigrants from Iowa City to Salt Lake City. To meet this situation, Brigham Young and his advisors evolved the plan of sending these hundreds of proselytes across the continent on foot.

It was in accordance with this "Divine" plan that the 1,300 Mormon converts had come to Iowa City and camped on the banks of Clear Creek, west of Coralville, during the hot days of May, June, and July, 1856. Here the tired and bewildered migrants found that their outfits were not ready; even the handcarts were yet to be made. Waiting for equipment, they went into camp. A few found shelter in covered wagons; some lived in tents while others had nothing more than makeshift shelter from sun and rain. Campfires provided the only means of cooking their meager supplies of food. Neglected graves on the Coralville slopes testify to the toll taken on these people by privation before the converts even started on their journey.

As constructed at Iowa City, the handcarts were frail vehicles for the trip, even though the load of personal equipment was limited by poverty. Seventeen pounds of baggage was allowed each person and this must include some food and the bedding and clothing for the long march. To carry this baggage one cart was provided for every five persons. The carts had two wooden wheels with thin iron tires, connected by a wooden axle upon which rested the box in which belongings were to be carried. Attached to one end was a shaft about five feet long connected by a cross-piece at the end, and by this means the rickety thing tugged along.

In addition to the carts, a wagon drawn by three yoke of oxen was provided for each hundred persons and on this were the extra provisions and the five tents allotted to this group. A few of the very old or crippled travelers

were carried in the wagons; but for the most part the company walked -- men, women, and children alike pulled the loaded handcarts, weighing about one hundred pounds each, over rough roads or unbroken prairie.

Finally, after weeks of weary waiting in the camp at Iowa City, the handcart brigade got under way. They left camp in five detachments. The first, made up of 226 persons, left camp June 9, 1856; a second detachment started two days later and a third, made up largely of Welsh converts, began the march June 23. Since these companies were small and started comparatively early in the season, they arrived safely at Salt Lake City before the cold weather began. High officials of the church met the pilgrims with bands and a cavalry escort. The "Divine" plan was hailed as a triumphant success.

The two later companies were not so fortunate. The fourth did not leave Iowa City until the middle of July, while the fifth and last company began its long trek July 28. The march through Iowa was hard enough, but in this friendly state their scanty rations were frequently enriched by charity, and those too ill to go farther might find a haven in some settlement willing to ignore for a time religious prejudice. But when the struggling caravans reached Nebraska they met the wilderness. No longer was there a settler's shanty to turn to; bit by bit their stores of food grew less until a man frequently ate his entire day's ration in two bites at breakfast, tramped on with no dinner, and, cowed by weariness and hunger, fell asleep supperless when night came.

Thirty of their oxen were lost in a stampede started by buffalo, and the young stock were put to the hauling. The poorly constructed wagons wore under the grinding sand so that axles broke; the iron rims of the wheels thinned to nothing. The cows dropped dead in their tracks. Even their skeleton carcasses were boiled and the bones sucked for nourishment; the old and the weak perished, then dysentery attacked the party and even the young and the strong dropped out. The cold was bitter beyond any they had ever known. Every morning there was a new stack of stiffly frozen bodies to bury in the snow; one morning the toll was 15. Yet so great was the faith of the feeble remnant in the self-appointed divinity of their church's leader, Brigham Young, that the converts still sang around their campfire the Handcart Song.

"Oh, our faith goes with the handcarts,
And they have our heart's best love;
This novel mode of traveling,
Devised by the God above."

On November 9, some four months after their start from Iowa City, the remnant of the last detachment reached Salt Lake City, the mecca of their pilgrimage of 3,000 miles by steamer, 1,000 by rail, and 1,400 terrible miles on foot that created what has been called the "longest graveyard in the world."

CHAPTER 7

THE PEOPLE OF THE SOIL

The fertility of the Iowa soil lured so many travelers into staying in the Iowa country that it became known as the "Iowa Gold." The first settlers to come to Johnson County were from the older and poorer agricultural regions; New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan provided the vanguard of those seeking new homes on a kindlier soil. As time went on, men and families traveled across the ocean from Germany, Bohemia, Ireland, and Wales to live their lives in Johnson County where the soil smiled for them and became home.

The Bohemians

The Bohemians made their first appearance in Johnson County in the late forties. From then on they continued to come until in the eighties there were hundreds of Bohemians arriving to establish homes and livelihood in the new country. They were a thrifty and industrious people and immediately upon reaching their destination set about seeking employment. Nearly all of them were tradesmen of some sort; many were gardeners or fruit growers, still others were farmers, tailors, weavers, and brewers.

The early fifties saw many Bohemians making settlements in the northern part of the county where they bought the roughest and least valuable lands along streams and gradually converted thousands of acres of apparently worthless ground into valuable farms. The families who settled in Iowa City soon owned either a pig or a flock of geese, and a few families even possessed a cow. The herd of cows was driven to nearby pastures each morning and back home each evening by some one lad in the neighborhood who collected and herded his charges to and fro, their bells making a jangle of mellow discords as they plodded the winding hillside paths. But the geese stayed nearer home. Every day during spring and summer the children, or a grandmother in her native costume, herded the geese along the streets and on vacant lots where the fresh green grass provided ample feed until fattening time came in the fall when they were penned and fed grain. A definite section of town on the north side, along the east from Bloomington Street to Church Street, was known as "Goose Town" because of the numerous flocks of geese raised there. This name clung for many years, into the early 1900's, when not even a single goose remained to be seen. The children and old women who herded the geese controlled them by waving switches above their heads. The most favored switch of all was that cut from the

scarlet ash tree because the ash was believed to cast a potent spell of some sort over the birds. The switch must be long, stripped of its leaves, and with the scarlet berries left hanging from its tip. It was believed that if even the most wayward goose glimpsed the red berries dangling above his head, his feet could stray no more that day from the ordered path.

Most of the Bohemian women took great pride in their housekeeping. The little houses shone with cleanliness. They were painted white, with blue doors and blue trim around the windows. Every family had brought what household belongings could be stored in handmade wooden chests. These chests were of varying sizes and were made chiefly of cherrywood from old-country orchards. They were filled with clothing, linens, dishes, and usually a featherbed or two. The housewives were excellent cooks and were skilled in preparing and curing an amazing variety of sausages. Their huge loaves of dark rye bread, flavored with caraway seed, had crisp, glossy crusts and a tempting nutty flavor from the long, slow baking, flat on the oven floor. The Bohemians used no baking pans. Other breads they made were the large crescent-shaped rolls covered with poppy seeds, or smaller rolls called "shucka." Always at Christmas time there were the braided loaves, called "hoska." Nor was any festivity complete without the popular "kolaches", those tender, raised buns -- flat and delicately brown, with hollowed centers filled with poppy seed or prune jam.

In the eighties, when several big breweries in Iowa City were operating full swing, many Bohemians found work in them, chiefly as maltsters in making and testing the brews. The malt left from the brewing made good feed for the pigs and cows, so that almost daily there was a wheelbarrow procession to and from the breweries to bring home the malt.

The Bohemians' love of color showed in the bright reds and blues and yellows of the women's tight-bodied, full-skirted dresses. They wore no hats but tied gaily-colored kerchiefs shawl-fashion on their heads.

The Bohemians of Johnson County retained many of their national qualities and were closely united in their lives. They took the responsibilities of their citizenship seriously and were active in political life. The records of public servants through the years are heavy with their names.

The Welsh

The rolling hills to the southwest of Iowa City long ago came to be known as the Welsh Hills, for it was in these rugged retreats that the hardy Welsh pioneers settled when in 1844 they began coming to America and to Iowa, seeking new homes and better opportunities.

Born and reared in the confines of tiny and mountainous Wales, these folk entertained ideas which were to lead to different shores, to new scenes, to change their lives completely from the staid, age-old pattern which their forefathers had followed down through the centuries.

Arriving at Iowa City friendless and all but penniless, they found haven in the hills nine miles southwest of Iowa City where they established claims and built their tiny cabins.

Material success was only a part of their life. Always a sober and God-fearing folk, they dotted the countryside with their little white Presbyterian and Congregational churches.

The Welsh had one passion and gift in the arts, and that was music. It was woven into their very being and showed itself most often, perhaps, in song; the Welsh Male Quartette of Iowa City was beloved for many years. But expression through instrumental music brought the Welsh quite as much acclaim, and they made an enviable place for themselves in the yearly Eisteddfod in Iowa.

Mennonites

The first Amish settlement in Johnson County was made by the Guengerich and Swartzendruber families along Deer Creek in the spring of 1846. Log cabins and furniture they built of basswood from the surrounding woodlands. The hardships that confronted these Amish trailblazers were many but they made of privation a friend and gave to their work such earnest endeavor that their community grew and prospered. By the year 1928 the largest Amish and Mennonite settlement in Iowa was located in Johnson County, a region comprising about twenty miles from east to west and twelve north to south, extending into the adjoining Washington and Iowa counties. The entire settlement numbered perhaps 3,000 persons, including children, and about 1,800 church members.

The 4,000 Mennonites in the State of Iowa were adherents of a faith that counted its members at 400,000 scattered throughout the world. Nearly all of the Iowa Mennonites were descendants of the Swiss Anabaptist Brethren of the Reformation period. Their first permanent settlement in America was in Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1683, and the Western wave of Mennonite migration had crossed into Iowa before 1840. Their first settlement in Iowa was made in Lee County, near the Mississippi River.

Differences of opinion as to church discipline early divided the Mennonite group into Mennonite and Amish wings, the term "Old Order Amish Mennonites" characterizing the

conservative wing, and "Amish Mennonites", the progressive group. While the Mennonites subscribed to the usual historic teachings of the Christian Church, they separated themselves from the world as a "peculiar people" by maintaining distinctive forms of dress and outward customs.

To "dress plain" meant for the women the full-gathered floor-length skirt with its tight bodice, the black cloth bonnet, the sheer lawn Pilgrim cap during devotions, and the absence of all ornamentation, even to the wedding ring. The traditional costume of the men included the round-legged, "front-fall" trousers, the hook-and-eye fastenings instead of buttons, the full beard -- "God's gift", but no mustache for this was a "mark of vanity and the devil." The small Amish children were clothed in replicas of their parents' garments.

The human desire for beauty, unable to express itself in personal adornment, found other outlets. The Amish and Mennonites became famous for their pride in beautiful flower gardens and in their fine horses and cattle. Sometimes a woman's hunger for "something pretty to wear" found satisfaction in the exquisitely fashioned lace on the hem of her petticoat.

Among the customs that set the Mennonites apart from their fellows was the refusal to do military service or to take an oath. Nor would a Mennonite sue at law. Their schools, particularly at first, were German Church schools: gradually these were abandoned, chiefly because of the hopeless struggle to maintain the German language when the teaching was in literary German and the people spoke Pennsylvania Dutch. Interested in basic education, but fearful of activities foreign to their beliefs, the Mennonites founded their own township high schools. More and more often their young people sought further attainment in the University of Iowa, even to earning the Doctor of Philosophy degree. And the long denied expression of beauty found gratification in the study of art. Harold Brenneman, a young Mennonite student at Iowa University's art center, received a quality award in 1938.

Contributing greatly to the material success of the Mennonite groups has been their belief in the rightness of simple living. Conservative as they were in religion and their personal habits, they were progressive in their adoption of new machinery and farming methods. Economic success in farming represented to them their mark of character, the blessing of God upon them. "If neighbor so-and-so's religion is as good as ours, why doesn't he get along better in the world?" was the challenging reply thrown out by the Mennonites to those who questioned their rule of life.

It was only natural that in closely-knit religious communities there should be a large degree of neighborhood cooperation. During the 1890's, when a great number of community cheese and butter factories sprang into existence in Iowa, the Mennonites built a good share of them, notably the Deer Creek Mills Dairy Association. Other cooperative enterprises in the Johnson County Mennonite settlement were thrasher rings, silo filling, rings and ice rings, mutual electric lines and mutual telephone lines. The beef ring in Johnson County was so successful a cooperative enterprise that it flourished for 30 years.

By 1938, the Mennonites of Johnson County had developed a number of the best dairy herds in Iowa, and a project in Johnson and Washington counties that gained national recognition in farming circles was the Maplecrest Turkey Farms, Incorporated, run by A. C. Gingerich, a member of the Daytonville Mennonite Church. The \$2,000,000 business of the Maplecrest Turkey Farms made them the turkey center of the United States.

CHAPTER 8

MILLS, QUARRIES, CRICKYARDS, BREWERIES

One of the most necessary members of any pioneer community was the man who knew how to build a mill. Although the abundance of game made meat obtainable, meal and flour were much more difficult to get and consequently the more highly prized.

Sawmills were erected early to cut the timber into planks for building better homes and farm buildings to shelter the stock and grain, and to build mills for the grinding of grains into flour and meal. Henry Felkner entered claim for nearly a thousand acres of land on Rapid Creek (near Butler's bridge) in 1838, where he enlisted the aid of Eli Meyers to construct a dam, and the two men built the first sawmill in the county.

The machinery for this mill is said to have been brought up the Iowa River on a flatboat. Though Felkner's mill was in active operation for many years, it could supply but a small portion of the demand for lumber -- especially during the period when the Old Capitol was under construction. Much of the lumber, all black walnut, used in the Territorial Statehouse came from this pioneer mill, and the story goes that its public-spirited proprietor refused to sell lumber to private parties for a time, so anxious was he to hasten the work of erecting the capitol.

Of all the early mills, both north and south of the Old Capitol, the best known was probably the gristmill of Joshua and David Switzer, built on Clear Creek in the fall of 1841, where the town of Coralville was later founded. Moses Adams took the first load of wheat there to be ground and received from it the first wheat flour (unbolted) to be made in Johnson County.

Busy as the mill was, however, it failed to prosper even when the milling was placed on a cash basis. Within three years the equipment went under the auctioneer's hammer and was sold to the promoters of the mills at Coralville.

The first permit to construct a dam on the river that gave Iowa its name was given to Walter Terrell by an act of the Legislative Assembly when he was first permitted to build a mill dam across the Iowa River about one-half mile north of Iowa City, where the course of water turns abruptly to the south.

Many millers were dominant personalities in those early days. There was Lt. Jefferson Davis -- who ground Iowa grist in his young years; and Gov. S. J. Kirkwood, later

Secretary of Interior. Walter Terrell, although he never held public office, was one of Iowa City's most influential men, an educator and engineer as well as a "dusty miller."

The height of Walter Terrell's dam was limited by legislative act, for both legislators and voters were dreaming of a day when steamboat paddles would keep the Iowa River foaming. The Terrell dam was not to exceed five feet in height above the low-water mark, nor obstruct navigation, and the legislature reserved the right to amend its act to allow for locks or other shipping aids.

The main building of the Terrell mill was 22 by 40 feet, three stories high. It was well equipped with three runs of four-foot millstones or burrs and three runs of the three-and-a-half-foot burrs. These flat circular millstones were generally eight to twelve inches thick and three to six feet across. They were set in pairs one above the other, the lower stone stationary, the upper revolving, and the contacting surfaces were grooved for cutting and crushing power. The grist trickled in; the meal flowed out.

Millstones had to be kept sharp, not only for grinding, but for the passage of air. Dull stones destroyed the quality of the grain, causing it to ferment and give a "false rising" in the baking; but even before it reached the housewife it was a clammy, sticky product which stuck to the bolting cloth and clogged its meshes.

Grain was ground to the customer's order. If he wanted it extra fine, the meal could be "bolted", that is, sifted through fine, white silk cloth of very firm texture, a cloth so lovely that a girl of frontier days was turned into a sprig of vanity by the gift of a bolting cloth gown.

Sometimes when wheat came through the burrs it was as black as soot from the smut in the grain, for there was no way of distinguishing good grain from smutty. Nevertheless the pioneers cooked, ate, and even relished the black bread made from this flour.

Walter Terrell was a master miller in Iowa City for 23 years. In the second year of his mill's operation he returned to his former home in Virginia for a visit and brought back a carding machine for cleaning and carding wool into rolls for spinning into yarn. This machine he set up in his cabin just across from the mill, and it vastly increased his business. The good news brought customers from all over Iowa and even from Illinois. Instead of slowly carding by hand, the fireside spinners now received fresh white rolls from the mill, ready for the wheel. This carding machine, the only one of the early machines preserved in the county, was later presented to the State Historical Society.

Tradition tells us that with all his good qualities Terrell was what his neighbors called "a little near", so much so indeed that his thrift at times approached miserliness. His daughter Mary graduated from the State University of Iowa in a calico dress. He hid his money in secret places on his property. Fact records that before Mr. and Mrs. Sanders (Terrell's daughter Mary) executed a deed of gift to Iowa City for the Terrell acres across the river from the old mill, a search was made for hidden treasure described on a faded slip of paper. Following the directions by exploring post holes, a can of gold coins was discovered. A few of the coins were given to Iowa City friends as souvenirs. This was in the year 1906, 19 years after the death of Terrell.

The first recorded suggestion of a dam project across the Iowa River within the Iowa City limits was made in May, 1842, and the next year there was a public meeting for the organization of the Iowa City Manufacturing Company, and the building of the dam. Chauncey Swan was elected president of the company.

As soon as \$5,000 of capital stock had been subscribed, work was begun about two miles northwest of the city, at a point which in later years became Coralville. No better site could have been chosen for here the bed of the river was solid rock with a pronounced fall below; advantageous also because the river up to that point would not be obstructed for possible navigation. The site for this mill was donated by Walter Butler.

By December 28, 1843, the work on both the dam and the mill were so near completion that the company advertised in the local newspapers -- under the headline, "Who Wants Bread?" -- that it would be ready January 1, 1844 to receive wheat and other grain for grinding. On New Year's Day, 1844 the company officers and workmen sat down at their boarding house to a feast of roast turkey garnished by corn dodgers, corn pone and mush made from meal ground that day from the power of the Iowa River.

When completed the dam was ten feet high and 400 feet long and was regarded as the largest and most substantial structure of its kind west of the Mississippi River. Many of the original stockholders had paid for their shares in the labor of their own hands -- wielding picks, shovels, and axes, shoveling dirt and gravel, hewing logs, and wading deep in the waters of the river. Merchants who had taken shares had contributed groceries and other provisions for the workmen. Later, the company's books revealed that the dam had been constructed at a total cost of no more than \$25 in actual money.

Although generously patronized by the settlers, the mill as managed by the Iowa City Manufacturing Company was not strikingly successful as a financial enterprise, and in 1845 it was offered for sale by order of the board of directors. In 1848, Mr. Ezekiel Clark of Mansfield, Ohio, bought in entirety the dam and mills, and installed new equipment. Gifted with a money sense, Clark soon had the plant booming. Settlers drove the long miles from northwestern Iowa, from across the Mississippi in Illinois as well as from the surrounding countryside, to have grists of grain ground or to make purchases of flour. At times the machinery was forced to run night and day to meet the demand. Often the mill looked like a great camping ground, so numerous were the settlers that had come from a distance.

Ezekiel Clark was the oldest brother of Mrs. Samuel J. Kirkwood -- which accounts for the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood to Iowa City in 1853. Within two years, in the spring of 1855, the Kirkwoods moved from Mansfield, Ohio, to become permanent residents of Iowa City, and Mr. Kirkwood purchased a part interest in the Ezekiel Clark mill property. It was while working in the big mill at Coralville that Samuel J. Kirkwood was called to the meeting in the Old Stone Capitol February 22, 1856.

In the early milling businesses the steam flouring mills at Oxford ranked among the best. Explosions destroyed the first plants but they were rebuilt and became second in importance only to the Coralville mill.

The town of Tiffin started as a grain and cattle shipping point on the newly completed Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, and for many years its stockyards and grain elevators served a wide district.

To the north and northwest of Solon, in Big Grove Township, stretched a broad expanse of level, fertile, well-watered land. It was here that Thomas Lingle, a miller as well as a farmer by trade, located a dam and mill not far from his claim. In 1840 the mill was completed and in operation; the full-flowing creek which furnished the power was known henceforth as Lingle's Creek. But ill-fortune hung over this mill though it was well patronized by the whole countryside. After having been damaged several times by floods, in the early fifties, it was completely washed out and destroyed. Then Frank Riddle took it over in 1854.

He cut new stones from the granitic rock scattered over the area, and ground a substantial business out of them for many years until the rolling type of mill appeared and made obsolete all the painfully driven old stones.

The first meeting of the Johnson County Agricultural and Mechanical Society was held in April, 1853, when plans were made for an exhibit to be shown in October on the Old Capitol Square, the present University Campus. To start the show, they had a cash balance in the treasury of \$9.80. Thorough advertising brought a crowd of 5,000 people to see the exhibits. Aside from the usual products of the farm, there was a great display of useful tools. There were wagons built by John Gordon, who also showed ox yokes and grain cradles of his own manufacture; there were wagons and sleds by Watkins; saddles for the California travel made by Eli Meyers and Benjamin Horner; plows, shoes, and butcher knives from the workshop of Henry Usher; ox shoes, shovels and tongs, from the forge of Anthony Cole. The best bedstead was made by Henry Wieneke. There were rolls of wool ready for the spinning-wheel, and domestic dressed flax; fine and coarse home woven linen and heavy woolen lengths for the wear of men.

Under the shade of the oak trees in the northeast corner of the grounds was found the finest livestock of the county, but offering then no standard breed of any sort.

The expenses of the fair were \$372 and the receipts \$380, the \$8 remaining being the nest egg with which to begin preparations for the following year. The next fair, held in September, fell short of its expenditures by \$22. Again no admission fee had been charged for the session, but the authorities realized that more income must be sought. An appeal was made to the State Legislature for assistance in continuing the organization, and in 1855 the petition was granted through an act passed which gave one-third of the poll tax in the county to the fair association on an order from the county judge. The judge was then the main part of the county government. This sum was required to be spent in the "Improvement of agricultural and mechanic arts in the county;" and, to be sure that this was done, the fair authorities were required to offer premiums equal to the amount paid from the county treasury and to be certain that a copy of the premium list be left with the county judge. Should the fair not be presented, the money was to be held by the county judge until the conditions were complied with.

At the 1855 fair, held on the Old Capitol grounds, pure-bred Durham, Devon, and Hereford cattle were exhibited for the first time in the history of the county. The 1856 show brought a balance on the right side of the ledger and influenced the society to purchase 25 acres of ground below town on the west side of the river for a fair site. But this expenditure and the cost of buildings brought a debt of \$800 by 1859.

In 1860 the Iowa State Fair was held on the Johnson County Fair Grounds and was one of the largest gatherings of

its day, with an estimated 10,000 persons in attendance. Freight was carried to it by the railroad, free of charge, and passengers were given half fare, while 18 hotels advertised reduced rates in accommodations for visitors.

The onset of the Civil War turned the Johnson County Fair Grounds over to the needs of the Government. In 1861 the site became Camp Fremont, the quarters and training field for the soldiers of the Tenth Iowa Infantry. After the soldiers no longer needed Camp Fremont it reverted to its original use. A yearly agricultural fair was held until the grounds were paid for; then this tract was sold and a larger area purchased in east Lucas Township where the county fair was held as long as that institution existed. After lying unused for a number of years, this tract of land became the residential district known to Iowa Cityans as Morningside.

Along the river bank were the quarries that supplied stone building material, and among them are those from which came the greater part of the stone for the building of the Old Capitol. Not "marble", as it has been termed, but Devonian limestone was what Chauncey Swan uncovered in the quarry on the east bank of the Iowa River, at a point not more than five blocks north of the Public Square. Though Swan at the time was confident that the quarry would yield stone "sufficient in quantity and suitable in quality" to meet the needs of the capitol's builders, he later found himself to have been over-optimistic; the quarries failed when the walls of the statehouse lacked one-fourth of completion. It was Swan's successor, William B. Snyder, who discovered the North Bend or "State" quarries and opened them for use in the erection of the Old Stone Capitol. These are located on the right bank of the Iowa River in Penn Township, sections five and eight, about eight miles northwest of Iowa City. This grade of stone was found only in Johnson County and is a stone not suitable for polishing, its great value lying in its use for massive structures and the more important parts of ordinary masonry. For many years working of the quarry for general use was not feasible because of the distance from transportation; the river had been used to carry the stone when the capitol was erected. The coming of motor trucks, however, removed the distance difficulty.

The building of the capitol and the coming of steamboats up the Iowa River brought an influx of German and Irish workers to Johnson County. The Irish were mainly steamboat and railroad workers, but drifted into other occupations as well. The Germans gradually took possession of many of the industries of Iowa City, turning their skills into brewing, baking, weaving, carpentering, and milling. The city's big breweries were theirs, as many of the flour mills came to be. Much of the fine cloth for clothing was

woven by German hands, and many a solidly built house of the period was constructed by them. Bakeries flourished under their care, as those will testify who can remember that treasure store of delicious German foods -- Union Bakery, so long a landmark at the corner of Linn and Market streets.

The land likewise called many of the Irish and Germans to tilling the soil. Whole communities, such as Oxford, Cosgrove, and Parnell became largely Irish, just as Solon and its countryside were dominated by the Bohemian group. The Germans spread over the county, fitting themselves in as individuals rather than in communities. Their dominance was rather in the various trades in the towns.

While many industries and businesses were started in a small way during the 1840's, Johnson County did not become a center of far-flung industry and business. With the exception of Terrell's mill and the mills at Coralville, the industries and business enterprises of the county were local. They appealed chiefly to the people of Johnson County.

Sylvanus Johnson opened the first brickyard, moulding with his own hands on April 14, 1840, the first brick made in Iowa City. The first brick business house of the city was erected that year on Iowa Avenue, and the first brick dwelling the next year by Johnson at his yards. From this plant came the brick for the walls of the noted Mechanic's Academy. In 1856 Nicholas Oaks opened a brickyard, which continued to be operated by the Oaks family until 1940. Both brick and tile were produced; of the former, 1,200,000 a year, and of the latter, 300,000. This yard made the first drain tile in the county. The Tiffin Tile Company supported a long and successful existence in supplying tile to the entire State. The clay bed in the county which furnished the material for brick and tile making, is said to be many feet thick.

The brewing business was started in Iowa City on the corner of Gilbert and Market streets in 1857 by a man named Rupert. In 1873, John P. Dostal bought the brewery and added a malt house to it. Year after year he added new features and increased the size of the plant until, with a capacity of 25,000 barrels a year, it was one of the largest breweries in Iowa.

During the eighties and nineties two other breweries flourished in Iowa City, the Hotz and Company plant and the Englert and Rittenmeyer brewery. All of these were successful until they were closed in 1918 by the eighteenth amendment.

The early years of Johnson County saw the drinking of "spirits" accepted as a social custom, as it was more or

less throughout the United States. Beer was practically unknown in the thirties and early forties in Iowa, and wine was a rarity. Whiskey in all grades and potencies was the general beverage of drinkers, and its excessive use resulted here, as in other parts of the country, in a rising sentiment for temperance. As early as the summer of 1842 a number of temperance societies were formed in Iowa City.

A branch of the national Sons of Temperance was organized in Johnson County in 1847. Each member signed a pledge and there were members by the hundreds. In November, 1849, the organization Cadets of Temperance was formed for boys under 18, who graduated into the Sons of Temperance on their eighteenth birthday. Temperance forums were held and debates on temperance were frequent. By 1855 more of these societies sprang up and gradually there developed the idea that it would be easy to prevent the use of intoxicating drinks by law. The Women's Christian Temperance Union appeared in Iowa City in 1875, bringing with it the Loyal Temperance Legion, that enrolled children almost from the cradle.

The theory that all that was needed to control the "demon drink" was a law, faced its test in 1832 when General Sherman declared the amendment adopted and valid. Then the fat was in the fire. Some of the communities, notably the wild Mississippi River towns, simply ignored the issue; while many a village was zealous in obeying the very letter of the law. Johnson County became a battleground between the "Wets" and the "Drys" as early as 1834, a year in which the feuds between the liquor and the temperance forces culminated in mobs and rioting in the streets of Iowa City. The county's population was heavily foreign, its various Old Country groups of German, Irish, or of Bohemian inheritance having been reared in the belief that some spiritous liquor is a natural drink of man. This attitude had fostered the saloon until it had multiplied out of all proportion to the size of the town, 40 alleged "dens of iniquity" running "wide open" at a time when Iowa City, the "Athens of Iowa", counted its inhabitants at a bare 7,000.

On the other side of the picture were the teetotalers and the "moderates" who held that the sale of rum should be severely restricted. Politics could not help taking a hand in the fray, the Wets swarming mainly to the Democratic banner, the Drys to the Republican standard, with the county elections usually swinging the Democrats into office.

The "whiskey riots", as out-of-town papers in the State described the active evidence of Iowa City's temperance problem, were most violent during the spring and summer months of 1834. The rioting on the streets broke out in April with the stoning of houses and continued at intervals

until on August 13 a large mob ran amuck, knocking to the ground one citizen, chasing two men through the streets with knives and revolvers, and holding a reign of terror for several hours. The mob was out for trouble and was composed of men who opposed the enforcement of prohibition. There were many arrests for violations of the prohibition law in Iowa City, but convictions were rare. The warrants sworn out against the offenders either had trouble getting served, or if the miscreants were hailed to justice, the punishment meant only a small fine by an obviously sympathetic court.

Money in the early days in Johnson County was of many kinds and in large part of uncertain value. After 1841 the money in circulation in the county consisted of a small amount of United States coin, bills of the Indiana and Missouri banks, Spanish quarters, county orders, territorial "scrip" of 1840 and 1841, and territorial certificates of 1842. The men who worked for wages took their pay in food-stuffs, clothing, and merchandise that had a fixed valuation in preference to money.

The custom of issuing scrip to pay current expenses was followed rather largely by Iowa towns in the forties and fifties. Iowa City issued scrip in denominations of one, two, three, and five dollars. Then, in order to keep up the value of this scrip, the legislature from time to time raised the legal value of lots in the city, but the method was a boomerang because the lots were boosted so high in price that they attracted no market. By 1844 the average value of a city lot was \$20 and the value of scrip correspondingly low. In the late fifties, however, Iowa City ordered all scrip to be collected and destroyed by a committee. Each denomination was to be recorded and an oath made as to the total amount. The plates used in making the scrip were required to be totally destroyed. This applied not only to scrip redeemed but also to all unsigned scrip. In this order the committee was authorized to present to the State Historical Society "one note of each denomination", and this amount is preserved in a frame on the walls of the rooms of the society. But the period of barter, before commercial paper came into wide and dependable use, was a long one in Johnson County.

There were no banks in Iowa City until the late fifties, when Cook, Sargent, and Downey erected a bank building at the corner of Washington and Clinton streets. The second bank was established soon afterward by Reno and Culbertson; and the third by James H. Gower and Brothers. When Iowans voted to establish a state bank in 1858, Iowa City acquired one of the branches, which was managed by Ezekiel Clark.

CHAPTER 9

LEGISLATION AT OLD STONE CAPITOL

Between 1841 and 1857 Iowa City saw five sessions of the Territorial Legislature, six sessions of the State General Assembly, and three constitutional conventions. During Iowa City's 16 years in territorial and state politics, many of the most significant events in the life of the territory and the young state took place within her borders.

There had been three regular sessions of the Territorial Legislature at Burlington, from 1838 to 1840, until the Fourth Legislative Assembly met in Butler's Frame Capitol at Iowa City, December 6, 1841. Early in 1841 the Third Legislative Assembly (meeting in Burlington) passed an act fixing the time for their next meeting as the first Monday in December 1841. If the public buildings at Iowa City were not ready for their reception, they would meet in Iowa City nevertheless, should suitable quarters be provided rent free. So the Fourth Territorial Assembly meeting was held at Iowa City solely because Walter Butler had erected a building to shelter the law makers.

Unfortunately, the construction of the new capitol had bogged down in the spring of 1841. The stone in the quarry was found to be poorer in quality the deeper it was dug, and the operators of the lime kiln threatened to let the fire go out unless they were paid for sorting the stone. The stone cutters, meanwhile, complained of the lack of enough suitable material to keep them busy. The effect of this trouble was that the values of city lots and territorial scrip decreased with a corresponding price increase on most commodities. Many merchants refused territorial scrip in payment for goods, choosing instead to give credit until the people were able to pay with other legal tender.

There was no prospect that the Stone Capitol would be completed in time to house the legislature, and there was real fear that the project would be abandoned and the capitol removed to another part of the State if no convening place were provided. The citizens then devised the plan of constructing a temporary capitol, free of cost to the territory, to be used until the stone capitol should be completed, but no money could be found for the investment. Public-spirited Walter Butler proposed to build a temporary capitol at his own expense in return for the promise by the citizens to pay the cost of the building and its value when vacated by the Territorial Legislature. The townspeople happily consented to the plan and Mr. Butler at once set about building, completing the structure before the coming of cold weather.

"Butler's Capitol", as it came to be called, was erected on Washington Street, east of the later Whetstone Drug Store. The structure measured 20 by 60 feet and was two stories high, with the council chamber on the first floor and the hall of representatives on the second. A wide stairway led from the middle of the first floor to the second, and 15 sizeable windows lighted the upper story.

Governor Chambers of the Territory of Iowa ordered the removal of the territorial property from Burlington to Iowa City to begin November 1, 1841, and the legislature was convened in Butler's capitol on December 6, and great rejoicing among the Iowa Cityans.

This Fourth Assembly granted divorces, located roads, authorized ferries and dams, incorporated towns, authorized county poorhouses, set fees for many county officers, acted to punish gambling, and provided for the expression of the people of the Territory on the subject of statehood. Henry Felkner represented Johnson County in the House and S. C. Hastings in the Council. There was a Democratic majority in each branch: 7-6 in the Council and 16-10 in the House.

Only one session of the Legislative Assembly was held in Butler's Capitol, and shortly thereafter Mr. Butler found himself saddled with a large and vacant building, and no immediate hope of getting his money back out of it. The legislature undertook to remunerate him for use of the structure in voting him \$750 and two Iowa City lots, but the Governor vetoed both acts. Sometime in 1843, however, the Legislative Assembly did allow Mr. Butler \$325 "for the use of the library room, storage room, and for removing furniture [to the 'Capitol'], and for rent of Secretary's office."

Concerning the fate of the old wooden capitol the Iowa Historical Record for July 1888 comments as follows: "It remained in its original location till the march of improvements crowded it two blocks and a half away on to Dubuque Street, from which place it was frequently moved to varying points in the city. In later years it was used as a religious meeting place, a store room, a printing office and a tailor's shop at different times. Part of it became a rather noted cheap hotel, the Hutchinson House, which later burned down."

The first session in the new Stone Capitol was held by the Fifth Legislative Assembly on December 5, 1842, even though the legislative chambers were unfinished. Temporarily the Council occupied the Supreme Court room, while the House of Representatives was accommodated in the Secretary's office on the same floor. Since the Council was composed of but 13 members and the House of Representatives of 26, this arrangement was possible even though space was reserved for a wood-burning stove in each room.

A noteworthy contribution to the history of Iowa law was made by this Fifth Legislative Assembly in the volume that came to be known as the Blue Book. It contained the statutes of the Territory of Iowa as revised and compiled by a joint committee of the Legislature in the session of 1842-1843, and arranged by the Secretary of the Interior. The book was printed by Hughes and Williams at Iowa City in 1843. Bound in covers of pale blue cardboard, it had 904 pages, and was actually the sequel of another compilation of statute laws during the Territorial period. In 1839, the First Legislative Assembly had arranged the laws so far made in the Territory, and published them in a volume of 598 pages, also bound in blue cardboard. The two books became renowned in Iowa law and were known as The Blue Book (1843) and Old Blue Book (1839).

The Sixth Assembly met in the Stone Capitol in the winter of 1843; but in 1844 delegates were elected, not to the Territorial Assembly, but to the First Constitutional Convention. This met October 7, 1844, in the Old Capitol. Of the 72 men who sat in the convention all walks of life were well represented, with farming predominating. Nearly all were men in the prime of life, few being over 50 years of age. And they were men of the frontier, most of them the sons of frontiersmen. Aside from the professional men present, few were educated beyond the ordinary standards of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and some might be regarded as deficient even in these subjects. But if they knew almost nothing of laws and constitutions, they did know American history. Their strongholds were reasoned opinions and common sense. Self-dependent and individualistic in their lives and thoughts, they were suspicious of corporate efforts. Lovers of freedom, they were restive under restraint and did not want a great deal of government. Above all, they wanted those who administered that government to be truly their servants.

The debates of the convention reflect something of the life, character, and attitudes of the people of early Iowa. When the delegates were elected to the convention of 1844, the people of the Territory were still suffering from the effects of over-speculation, panic, and general economic depression. Many of them still felt the sting of recent bank failures and depreciated currency. Economy was the rule of the day. In the debate on salaries, the convention voted that "for the first ten years after the organization of the government, the annual salary of the Governor shall not exceed \$300; the Secretary of State, \$500; the Treasurer, \$300; the Auditor, \$500; and Judges of the Supreme and District Courts, each, \$800."

From the debate on the executive power, the convention aimed to make the chief magistracy a representative institution and to limit its influence on legislation. The settlers had smarted under the many stern vetoes of Governor

Lucas, and were ready to agree that the Governor should be elected for a term of two years only and that his veto should be limited.

The members of the convention of 1844 were democratic in their ideals, clinging to the dogmas of the Declaration of Independence that all men were created equal, and that government should be instituted by and with the consent of the governed. Such was their professed philosophy. Did it include or exclude the negroes?

A "petition of sundry citizens praying for the admission of people of color on the same footing as white citizens," which had been referred to a select committee, brought to the floor of the convention a remarkable report which found it "inexpedient to grant the prayer of the petition." But though the report was tabled, it did represent the dominant opinion in Iowa at that time. More than a score of years passed before there was no longer a doubt in the minds of the citizens "that all men are created free and equal."

Because of recent economic troubles, many of the delegates came to the convention instructed to oppose the propositions that in any way favored corporations, especially banking corporations.

The minority report of the Legislature of 1844 provided that "no bank or banking corporation of discount or circulation shall ever be established in this state." Furthermore, the Legislature voted that no corporation might endure longer than 20 years, and that the members of any corporation would have to stand responsible for its debts to the limit of their personal and real property. In addition, the General Assembly could have no power to create a banking institution, or a corporation with banking privileges unless the people voted for it. As an extra safeguard the General Assembly could repeal any acts of incorporation they might have granted. Moreover, the inhabitants of the State need never fear that any incorporated company could use their property without the owner's consent. And as a final lock against nefarious spending, the Assembly decided that the State could in no way hold stock in a bank or other corporation.

The most significant provision of the Constitution of 1844 was the definition of boundaries. As originally prepared by Governor Lucas and adopted by the convention, the boundaries of the State were based on the topography of the country as determined by its rivers: on the east, the Mississippi, on the west, the Missouri, and on the north, the St. Peter's. These natural boundaries were to be connected and made continuous by the artificial lines of the survey.

As described in the Constitution of 1844, these came to be known as the "Lucas boundaries."

The new constitution was presented to Congress in December, 1844, by Augustus C. Dodge. When the committee on territories in the lower house of Congress introduced a bill for the joint admission of Iowa and Florida (one a free and the other a slave state) the boundaries of the proposed states were objected to. The controversy ended with the boundaries of Iowa being materially altered, the change being based on the early geological surveys of Nicollet. The meridian 17 degrees and 30 minutes west of Washington was fixed as the western line, in place of the Missouri River, and the parallel of latitude of the mouth of the Blue Earth River was taken for the northern line. This made an elongated state, extending 300 miles north and south along the Mississippi, with an average width of about 160 miles.

With these changed boundaries Congress enabled the State to be admitted on the vote of the people. The bill was passed March 3, and the election was set for the first Monday in April. When the news of the changed and curtailed boundaries reached Iowa there was a loud outcry against the action of Congress. Even though their representative, Augustus C. Dodge, had bowed to Congress in the matter and had written a letter of appeal to his constituents to acquiesce with him, his surrender only made the people at home the more persistent in revolt.

When the votes were counted, "No" was written on 996 ballots -- a large majority. Otherwise, Iowa might have been something very different geographically.

The Eighth (and last) Legislative Assembly of the Iowa Territory met at Iowa City in December 1845. The members were faced again with the problem of State organization, and to handle it created a new constitutional convention, composed of only 32 delegates, who were elected in April and met at Iowa City on May 4, 1846. Within 15 days this Second Constitutional Convention drew up a constitution which was modelled after that of 1844, but was not a literal copy. It retained all the restrictive clauses, wholly excluding banks of issue and all private corporations. But the boundary question was solved in Washington in the summer of 1846, when the committee on territories proposed the boundaries as they exist today, the Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers on the west and the parallel of latitude 43 degrees, 30 minutes on the north. These were called the "compromise or congressional boundaries", and were adopted by the constitution makers of 1846 and by the people of the Territory. Congress accepted the new Constitution, and on December 28, 1846, the bill was approved by President Polk, and Iowa became a State.

The first General Assembly of the State of Iowa opened its session at the Old Stone Capitol November 30, 1846. It heard the farewell message of the last territorial governor, James Clarke, and saw the inauguration of Ansel Briggs, first governor of the State. Two United States Senators were to be elected by the General Assembly -- but political parties were so evenly balanced, with an ineffectual Democrat majority, that the assembly adjourned February 25, 1847, without electing the senators. Nor were they elected at the special session of January 1848.

At the Second State General Assembly, however, which opened at the Old Stone Capitol December 4, 1848, the Democratic majority was powerful. On December 7, Augustus Caesar Dodge and George Wallace Jones were elected to the United States Senate.

The Third State General Assembly, (1850-1851) adopted the "Code of Iowa 1851." The Fourth Assembly (1852-1853) defeated a bill for moving the capitol to Des Moines, but their protest was futile. Iowa City once had been centrally located when only a 50-mile strip along the Mississippi had been purchased from the Indians, but now that the State was extended westward, the natural center was moved. The Fifth State General Assembly, on January 25, 1855, bowed to circumstance and approved an act permanently locating the capitol at Des Moines.

The Sixth Assembly (1856-57) was the last to meet in Iowa City. It was then that the legislators voted a permanent annual appropriation for a State Historical Society, to be established in connection with the State University of Iowa.

However, the Old Stone Capitol was to see one more Constitutional Convention -- the Third -- which convened January 19, 1857. It revised and amended the Constitution of 1846. From the time of its passage, the 1846 Constitution's ruling prohibiting the establishment of banking incorporations had been bitterly opposed by the people. Again and again an amendment had been requested. Governor Stephen Hempstead saw no reason for change, but Gov. James W. Grimes favored submitting the question to the voters.

Necessity for amendment had become imperative. Iowa was flooded with depreciated paper currency from other states. Gold and silver money were scarce, the few pieces that found their way into the State were hoarded either to pay taxes or to buy public lands. At the general election in August 1856, the electors decided in favor of a constitutional convention, which met in January 1857, in the Stone Capitol. The convention finally agreed to concede to the

General Assembly the power to make laws relative to corporations. But the acts of the General Assembly authorizing or creating corporations with banking powers must be referred to the people for their approval at a general or special election. The General Assembly was empowered to establish "a State Bank with branches." Such a bank, if established, "shall be founded on an actual specie basis, and the branches shall be mutually responsible for each other's liabilities upon all notes, bills, and other issues intended for circulation as money."

The next question of importance at the 1857 convention was the negro problem: Should the public schools of the State be open to persons of color? Should the Constitution guarantee to all persons, irrespective of color, the right to acquire, hold, and transmit property? Should the militia be composed exclusively of "white male citizens?" Should the right of suffrage be extended to negroes? The Republican majority in the convention was forced to declare and defend its attitude on these vital questions.

The situation was embarrassing to the Republican delegates. They were opposed to slavery -- at least to further extensions of it in the Territories; but that did not imply that they were completely abolitionists. Nor were they ready to take the responsibility of placing the negro on the same plane in every respect with the white man.

William Penn Clarke said that he understood the Republican doctrine to be "in favor of abolishing the distinctions that exist in the free states, which prove a bar to the colored man in the enjoyment of his rights," and that any law that denies these rights to the negro should most certainly be replaced. But since he did not look upon the right to vote as fundamental, he opposed the submission of this question to the people.

The convention, after much debate, agreed to submit on a separate ballot the question of striking the word "white" from the article on the suffrage. The proposal to extend the right of suffrage to negroes failed of adoption.

Another question of supreme interest to the people of Iowa City was the permanent location of the State University. In the discussions on the floor the question came to be linked with the relocation of the State Capitol at Des Moines. The State University had already been established at Iowa City by an Act of the General Assembly in 1847, while the removal of the State Capitol to Des Moines had been ordered by the General Assembly in 1855. But the question before the convention was whether these locations should be made permanent by placing them beyond the power of the legislature to effect a change by statutory enactment. In other words, should these locations be specified in the

State Constitution? This, then, was the provision for the permanent location of the capitol at Des Moines and of the State University at Iowa City.

On November 8, 1857, the State officers left by stagecoach for Des Moines, which they reached three days later, after passing through a heavy snowstorm and transferring finally from stagecoach to lumber wagon. The Old Stone Capitol became a monument of the past and Iowa City turned her attention now to the University, exclusively hers, and destined to color her entire future.

CHAPTER 10

FOOTPATHS IN EDUCATION

January 16, 1840, the Territorial Legislature approved an act providing for the creation of Johnson County, but since there were no funds from which to grant school money for the Territory, the school law remained dead for a number of years. Fortunately, however, there was no dearth of private schools for the years immediately following.

Jesse Berry opened the first school in Johnson County in 1840, in a frame building which he erected himself on College Street, just west of Clinton Street in Iowa City. It was only 18 by 26 feet in size, but it made an ample home for Mr. Berry and a sufficiently large classroom for the 15 pupils of school age who lived in the town. At that time the age of four was considered none too young to start one's scholastic education, nor was 20 too old to return for a "brush-up in spelling and arithmetic." The tuition was rarely paid in cash, for that was scarce. Some pupils paid in firewood, some in vegetables on the ground that "teacher must eat", and others found that washing or sewing the garments of the teacher made a desirable payment.

In the fall and winter of 1842 and 1843, Jeremiah Stover taught in the first regular schoolhouse built in the county. This was in the south part of what is now Pleasant Valley Township, on the bank of Buck Creek, in the southwest quarter of section 36. The school was located on the claim of James Walker and was known as the "Walker School House." Thirteen pupils attended, the price of tuition being \$1.50 for the three-month term. The patrons furnished the wood, but the teacher had to cut it and make his own fire.

Other county schools sprang up at about this time. Austin Cole taught in Scott Township in 1843-44. His income is not stated, but he was, according to Cyrus Sanders' Journal, "clever enough to teach the boys athletics that included wood cutting."

In 1842 James Douglas, in the Clear Creek Settlement, gave a part of his house for use as a school, and the same winter saw 16 pupils attending school in David Crozier's cabin in what later became Penn Township. Cedar Township, had a school in 1841, on section 31, where Mrs. Fanny Pratt taught in her own home, charging \$1 a month for each pupil. Big Grove had a real schoolhouse in 1844, built by Chas. Fowler in section nine. The cabin was 14 feet square, of round logs, with windows of greased paper. Daniel McGuire taught here in 1844-45, having 18 pupils and a salary of \$10 a month.

Miss Cynthia Worster was employed at \$3 a week to keep a school in the present Oxford Township. To go home with the pupils for meals and lodging was the established custom, and the length of time the teacher stayed in each home varied in proportion to the number sent from each family.

The schools of Solon date their establishment in the graded form, from about 1878, and soon after this they passed from a single room to a better building. Not until 1860 was a frame house for school purposes erected in the vicinity of North Liberty. Later, in 1865, a two-story frame building was planned for the village, which furnished room enough partly to grade the school, in which Miss Elizabeth Bowman is said to have been the first teacher.

The transition from private to public education began in 1847 when Iowa City township was divided into two districts -- the southern and the northern. On May 25, 1847, A. G. Gower opened his first free public school in the Methodist Protestant Church on Iowa Avenue. It was at the close of Mr. Gower's first term that H. W. Lathrop opened his school in the same building. But free schools were of little consequence for at least six years following this beginning, since adequate funds for their support were not available. There was no local taxation for educational purposes, and the apportionment for the State fund was slight, \$170.60 for the whole of Iowa City Township.

Whenever the free school closed for want of funds, Mr. Lathrop would organize private classes. Then, when a State apportionment was received, he would secure the contract for the free school, take his private pupils with him, and become a public school teacher. When the public funds were exhausted, he would again organize his private classes.

When Iowa City was incorporated in 1853 the city schools came under the control of the city council and so remained until the law of 1858, which provided for an independent school board. In July 1853 the city council rented the Mechanics' Academy for a term of five years at \$250 a year, for use as a city school. Mr. Lathrop was employed as principal and teacher at \$450 a year. The citizens met the same year in the Methodist Protestant Church to vote on the question of levying a tax to pay for schoolhouses and the land on which to build them. In an election soon afterward they approved a tax of one per cent for the purpose. This was meant to provide for three buildings, one in each ward, the construction to be made under the authority of the city council. A colored woman refused to pay her tax because her children were not allowed school privileges. She was within her rights because colored children had been denied access to the schools. The controversy dragged along until the school board in May 1858 voted to establish a school for colored children in the city. However, there was

barely money enough for one set of schoolhouses, and this promise of extra expenditure had to be rescinded in the June session of the board, and a shrug-the-shoulder, do-as-you-can measure substituted. The colored pupils were instructed to attend the schools in their respective districts "until objections be urged by the white families sending children to said schools."

During 1859 plans were laid for grading the schools, and the suggestion was made regarding the need of a city superintendent, but the matter was deferred because of expense. The chief problem during this period was to provide the district with buildings and furniture without making the debt burdensome. It was with this in mind that the new board, in the spring of 1860, proposed to suspend school for part of a year until the indebtedness could be discharged. This was about the time the State was trying the same plan in suspending the operations of the University for a similar purpose, or until a fund could be accumulated.

The first Catholic parochial school in Johnson County was St. Mary's of the Visitation, at Iowa City. The Reverend Father Godfert started it in 1846 in the basement of the church, with himself and Miss Norma O'Conner as the first teachers. The school outgrew several quarters until it had its own building on Jefferson Street at Clinton. By 1939 there were 228 pupils in the care of nine sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary. St. Mary's high school was the first Catholic high school in Iowa to be fully accredited by the State University.

In 1885, Father Patrick Smyth, the pastor of St. Patrick's Church at Iowa City, started St. Patrick's Parochial School in a building erected just across the street from the church, at the intersection of Linn and Court streets. The Reverend Father O'Farrell, successor to Father Smyth, enlarged the school greatly in 1916. In 1939 the pupils numbered 321 under the guidance of 12 Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin.

St. Peter's School in Cosgrove had its beginning in 1901 when a few members of St. Peter's Church built the first school with their own funds. For two years the school was taught by lay teachers, as it was looked upon as only an experiment. Results were so encouraging, however, that the Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary were placed in charge in 1903. The school advanced rapidly and in a short time high school subjects were added to the curriculum.

St. Joseph's Catholic Parochial School at Hills was erected in 1908 under the supervision of Father Kottenstette. The school had 82 pupils in 1939 with a staff of five Sisters of the Perpetual Adoration.

A notable trial of the township high school plan originated in Jefferson Township, Johnson County, in 1888 when the township board made provisions for a term of five months with a prearranged outline of study. Later the electors authorized the board to extend the school year and to continue the high school for a period of five years, following which the arrangement was accepted for an indefinite period. The movement proved so valuable that it drew students from other townships.

In 1904 the Jefferson Township school announced its purpose of offering to pupils from sub-districts an opportunity not only to prepare for higher education, but also for such practical conditions as would induce them to remain in the community. The preparatory work then accomplished was accepted by the colleges insofar as it met requirements; and no high school in the county, it was asserted, could point to a larger percentage of students who had continued their preparation beyond the local course of study.

Private schools at Iowa City were so numerous in the 1840's that it must have been a problem to find sufficient pupils for the new schools that were always starting. Fortunately they were somewhat spaced in time and, happily or unhappily, their terms of life were brief. Jesse Berry was the beginner, with an elementary school; in the same year I. M. Choate opened his private school in a little frame building on Market Street just west of the present English Lutheran Church, not suspecting, perhaps, that it would stand for years, to become one of Johnson County's historic landmarks.

"Advanced schools" came in with a rush upon the heels of the beginners' classes. These early seminaries and colleges were designed to be permanent and to be of high value, but they could not be maintained under the conditions then prevailing. The educational efforts undertaken during this period were not more than secondary in character: for instance, Iowa City College included an "infant department, a preparatory department, and a collegiate department," -- indicating a range of work since undertaken by the public schools. The work was comprehensive for a frontier school, though secondary rather than collegiate in rank.

In all educational affairs in Iowa City one building played such an important part that it was remembered for many years after it had been dismantled. It was the Academy built by the Mechanics' Mutual Aid Association. The year 1839 was made memorable to Iowa Cityans by the setting of stakes to mark the boundaries of this academy. Two years later the Mechanics of Iowa City met to organize the well-known Iowa City Mechanics' Mutual Aid Association, choosing

James N. Ball as the first president, L. S. Swafford and Thomas Combe as vice-presidents, Edward Lanning as secretary, and Thomas Ricard as treasurer. Ball was a stone cutter and was later to be the artisan to cut the word "Iowa" in raised letters on the capstones of the east and west entrances of Old Stone Capitol. Swafford, a carpenter, used oak lumber from Felkner's sawmill to make the window frames of the Academy, and Sylvanus Johnson fashioned the brick for its walls in his kiln near Hummer's mill. The building was erected by voluntary subscription of the Mechanics' Association, at an expense of about \$4,000, though the donations of land by the territory required an outlay of only \$1,000.

Work was begun on the building in the spring of 1842, and by the middle of June had progressed enough for the laying of the cornerstone. The building was completed the following spring, on land donated by the legislature, the southwest corner of block 60 in the original town of Iowa City.

The Academy was opened in the fall of 1842 under the management of Hugh and William Hamilton, who agreed to accept tuition "in any kind of merchantable produce and labor." This seems to have been the last school conducted under the auspices of the Mechanics' Mutual Aid Association.

In November 1845 the upper floor was leased to the Masonic Lodge, and in less than a year was leased again by the Masons to the Odd Fellows, after which it was used by both lodges for two or more years, while the first floor continued to be employed by the various instructors for educational purposes. Following this the entire building was rented by private individuals who held classes. Among these were Dr. Reynolds, H. W. Lathrop, D. S. Warren, Mrs. S. C. Morey, and others until July 1853, when the first school under the city government was opened with H. W. Lathrop as principal and Nancy McCaddon as assistant, at salaries of \$450 and \$250 per year. The annual rent paid by the city was \$230.

The advertisements of schools that tried to soar in the upper reaches of learning form a veritable bouquet of colorful characteristics.

The Iowa Seminary, chartered by the Legislative Assembly in the last days of 1840, was to have been a high class co-educational institution, but so rigid were its requirements, no possessors of them applied for admittance. This brought the Seminary to a close before it had begun.

Tolerance-Capitalized might have been the slogan of the Iowa City College, incorporated in 1843 under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Any student, whatever

the class or religious persuasion he represented, was free to enter this institution. For several years the Iowa City College held its ground, but its second president, James Harlan, accepted the post of State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1847, and with his departure the college drew its last breath.

The year 1843 saw the launching of another educational venture, this time a literary and theological institution named "Snethen Seminary", in honor of Nicholas Snethen, a prominent clergyman of Cincinnati. The sponsor of the fledgling school was the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. Large plans envisaged its future along preparatory, collegiate, and theological departments, but its existence had hardly drawn a first feeble breath before trouble with its principal, Talbot, sent it downhill so rapidly that in less than two years it died.

Of all the educational experiments launched at Iowa City in the 1840's, Iowa City University was the most elaborate in organization. It sought to become a real university, and the Legislative Assembly recognized this in 1845 by passing an act granting its charter, which gave wide powers to the board of 30 regents.

Iowa City University stated in its prospectus that "any person entitled to a seat in the legislature is to be entitled to a seat and a vote with the board of regents." The same source reveals that "any selected professor of the University who shall obtain funds sufficient to endow a professorship shall be permanently continued."

Among the evidences that the Iowa City University was actually put into operation is the record that in March, 1846, there was a public examination, and that "the 'original addresses, dissertations, dialogues, and disputations were in Greek and Latin, were all respectable, and many of them of a superior character.'" The exact date of the demise of Iowa City University is not known, but it is certain that its end was brought about in part by the founding of the State University of Iowa in 1847.

The final flourish of private enterprise in educational beginnings at Iowa City was an attempt to set up the Iowa Female Collegiate Institute in 1853. The plan was inaugurated by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows upon the suggestion of the Reverend A. Russell Belden.

The new enterprise aroused so much enthusiasm that the sum of \$6,000 was quickly raised toward a building. The use of the west half of College Green (later to be known as College Hill Park) was granted by the town council as a site

for the seminary. But the suspicious beginning had no future. In August, 1855, when the walls of the basement and first story had been completed, Mr. Belden suddenly died. He had been the institute's dynamo from its inception, a man of flaming zeal and tremendous energy, and all attempts to replace him failed. His loss brought disaster to the Iowa Female Collegiate Institute and in the course of time the half-completed walls were torn down.

In 1864 St. Agatha's Seminary was established at Iowa City. In the preliminary announcement the purposes of the school were set forth as the training of young women "in those qualities which would ornament their minds with useful information, accustom them early to habits of order and economy, and make them attractive not only in the family but also in society." The Seminary was controlled by the Sisters of Charity of the Roman Catholic Church, but it offered instruction to all who came.

For many years St. Agatha's Seminary drew numerous students from abroad, having in 1877 nine teachers and 175 students in attendance. As the years passed the Seminary became more and more local in its enrollment and later was abandoned. For a time the building served as a dormitory, under private management, for young women attending the State University, then later it became an apartment house.

The Iowa City Academy began its long life in 1869 under the guidance of William McClain. Thereafter various well-known names among Iowa educators held its principalship. It was a school primarily preparing for the State University, with both classical and scientific courses of study, during a period when the fully accredited high school was yet to be developed. In the year 1882-1883, over four hundred students were enrolled. In 1891 W. A. Willis came into the ownership of Iowa City Academy, which he conducted until his death in 1915. The institution did not close its doors, however, until the summer of 1916, when the last class was graduated under the direction of his daughter, Miss Bertha Willis.

The Irish Business College, for many years located in the Morrison building at Dubuque and Washington streets in Iowa City, was founded in 1895 by Miss Elizabeth Irish, who closed her school in December 1940, after 45 years of continuous service as its director. During that time more than 12,000 students, many of whom became business men of Iowa City, had enrolled in the Irish Business College.

An act of the General Assembly approved January 18, 1853 established an Asylum for the Blind at Iowa City under the principalship of Samuel Bacon. The institution opened on April 4. An instructor in music and a matron were the

other members of the staff. Although Mr. Bacon was blind himself, he successfully conducted the school. Popular sentiment as to the equitable geographical distribution of State institutions brought about the transfer of the institution in 1862 from Iowa City to Vinton, in Benton County.

The State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb (later the Iowa School for the Deaf) was established at Iowa City by act of the General Assembly approved January 24, 1855. At that time, out of the 301 deaf mutes in the State, 50 attended the State school at Iowa City. W. J. Ijams, who had formerly conducted this school privately, was made principal. In 1862, however, Ijams resigned and Benjamin Talbot took his place. Then the feeling concerning proper geographical distribution of State institutions came again to the fore and vigorous efforts were made in 1866 to have it moved to Des Moines. Shortly afterward the school was transferred to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Iowa City had only about 30 houses when a lyceum was formed there. The Capital Reporter (December 18, 1841) asked all who were "friendly to the formation of a Lyceum" to meet at the Methodist Church. Evidently there was a good response.

Debating societies and lyceums had sprung up to nationwide popularity soon after their inauguration in New England in 1826.

This lyceum was the first club in Iowa City organized for instruction and entertainment. It was not incorporated, although lyceums elsewhere frequently were. According to one historian a second lyceum was organized November 10, 1842, at the residence of Bryan Dennis but this club may have been merged with the earlier society.

In 1870 the Y. M. C. A. library, organized a few years before, was discontinued and the association agreed to surrender the books to any organization that would continue the work. A temporary group existed for about four years, then it disbanded and the books in the collection were disposed of at a public sale. Nearly 20 years elapsed before various interests began to agitate for another library, and a movement started that culminated in the Iowa City Public Library.

The Iowa City Library Association solicited funds from among the townspeople and on January 2, 1897, the first books were ordered. In March 1897, the citizens voted the library into existence with public funds. The same board ran the affairs of the library but the name was changed to Iowa City Public Library. As demands for more room and more books were made on the city council by the library

board, the movement for the Carnegie Library got under way. An appeal to the Carnegie Foundation for aid in erecting a building was approved, and a thousand dollars more were contributed than were asked for by the local board. A site on the corner of Linn and College streets was bought for \$8,500, but the building to be erected was found to call for more funds than the board had on hand. When the city council failed to set aside the money to make up the deficit, an appeal to the Carnegie Foundation brought \$10,000 more from Andrew Carnegie, and the library problem was solved. The total cost of the building was \$35,000. Many civic organizations and cultural groups assisted in raising the funds to cover the purchase of books for several years after the building was completed.

CHAPTER 11

CONCERNING CHURCHES

Although no church has ever graced Iowa City's specially designated Church Street, religion flourished in the newly created seat of government, and during the period from 1840 to 1843 local branches of seven denominations were organized.

Reconnoitering missionaries regarded Iowa City as a fertile and rewarding field. The community was growing rapidly and the building of churches was encouraged by the Territory through the donation of lots on which to erect them. Chauncey Swan, the acting commissioner at Iowa City, instituted this plan by reserving for church purposes four half-blocks on the original plat of the town: the south half of block 51 on Church Street, the south half of block 13 on Church Street, the south half of block 67 on Jefferson Street, and the north half of block 66 on Iowa Avenue.

In accordance with Swan's plan, the Legislative Assembly in July 1840, passed an act granting "certain lots of land in Iowa City for Church and Literary purposes." The provisions stated that "any religious denomination of Christians now known as such in the United States" was entitled to one equal half of any of the reserved half-blocks on condition "that they will erect and finish on said lot a meeting house or place of public worship of at least \$1,000 within three years from the passage of this act." Four denominations took advantage of the offer: the Methodist Protestant, the Roman Catholic, the Methodist Episcopal, and the Universalist.

The Methodist Protestants were the first to build a meeting house, which they erected on block 66, on Iowa Avenue, facing the City Park. Funds for the building were secured through donations in Iowa and in the East, and by the sale of pews at \$50 each. The cornerstone of the building was laid May 12, 1841. When the church was completed it served the community as much for educational purposes as for religious activities. The schools that it housed at various times were: Snethen Seminary, Dr. Reynold's Select School, Mrs. Hart's School, the Iowa City College, Mr. Lathrop's School, and the first free public school conducted by a Mr. Gower. This historic building, constructed of brick, with a high basement and a long flight of stairs leading up from the street, came to be known in Iowa City as the College Building. In later years, when it had been painted blue, it was called the Old Blue Church. In 1866 this historic landmark was torn down, the local group of Methodist Protestants having long since disbanded, to make room for the Christian Chapel.

The Methodist Episcopal Church had a more fortunate history. Methodism in Johnson County has its traditional beginning as far back as 1836 when the Illinois conference established an Iowa River Mission to reach westward from the Mississippi River as far as settlement could be found. A membership of 70 was reported at the close of the year by Daniel G. Cartright, the missionary appointed to the field.

The first sermon in Iowa City, then a village of about one hundred, was preached by the Reverend Joseph L. Kirkpatrick at the house of Matthew Teneyck late in the year 1839. Matthew Teneyck was head of the Iowa Mission of the Methodist class in Iowa City when it was organized.

In the fall of 1841 the Methodists began an earnest campaign for a building of their own. A young minister named George Bowman went East to solicit funds and in six months returned with \$4,000 in addition to materials he had collected in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. As a reward for his efficiency, the board of trustees of the church allowed him not only his year's salary but also a suit of clothes. The home group added to the building fund, and managed to erect a brick structure 45 by 60 feet on the west half of the south half of block 67 on Jefferson Street. The architecture was elaborate for the time and place, imitating somewhat the classic lines of the Old Stone Capitol; the parsonage, however, was a mere cabin costing about \$175.

The first religious group to enter Iowa, the Roman Catholics, early effected an organization at the Capital City. On October 20, 1840, the Reverend Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli celebrated the first Mass in Iowa City at the house of Ferdinand Haberstroh, using the mantel piece as an improvised altar. Twenty-eight or thirty Catholic communicants were present.

On Father Mazzuchelli's advice the Catholics selected the east half of the church reservation in block 67 on Jefferson Street facing the City Park. By 1841 the church walls were sufficiently advanced for the laying of the cornerstone. Father Mazzuchelli delivered the address from an improvised pulpit consisting of a mound of earth left by the workmen.

The church, known as St. Mary's, was constructed of brick, and measured 35 by 60 feet. Besides a schoolroom, there were two smaller rooms in the basement, arranged for living quarters for the priest.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church was organized in the fall of 1872, when the Irish members of St. Mary's left the parent parish and established a separate congregation. Under

the leadership of the Reverend Father Smyth a church site was purchased at the corner of Linn and Court streets where a tall spired edifice was erected. The cornerstone was laid June 13, 1878, and the first Mass was celebrated in the new structure February 2, 1879.

Another group of St. Mary's congregation, the Bohemians, separated from the parent church and formed a new congregation called St. Wenceslaus. Father Joseph Sinkmajer was sent to Iowa City in the summer of 1893 to organize the new parish. The church he was instrumental in building was located at the corner of Dodge and Davenport streets, its cornerstone was laid by the Reverend Father Sinkmajer on September 25, 1893.

The First Presbyterian Society of Iowa City was organized by the Reverend L. G. Bell and the Reverend Michael Hummer in August 1840. For nearly a year after the founding of this society, Cyrus Sanders' Journal tells us that the Reverend John Stockton of Muscatine preached on alternate Sundays "sometimes under a mighty oak hard by Butler's tavern, on the corner of Clinton and Washington streets, often in the barroom of the inn itself." For each visit he was paid \$5. In the fall of 1841 the Reverend Michael Hummer appears as the first regular resident pastor.

For six years the Presbyterian society had no regular place of worship. Services were held in any number of places; in Berry's schoolroom, Choate's schoolhouse, Butler's Hotel, Mechanics' Academy, and the Council Chamber of the Territorial Capitol. In the spring of 1843 the Reverend Michael Hummer was appointed the agent to collect funds, both at home and in the East, for the erection of a church building. Chauncey Swan, often referred to as the "First Presbyterian in Iowa City" contributed \$300 and a building site -- the lot on the corner of Clinton and Market streets, where the First Presbyterian Church was built.

The completion of the church was marked by its dedication on February 24, 1850. The structure was of brick, crowned by a cupola and dignified by a porch with Corinthian columns. In May, 1856, a spark from a steam engine in a carpenter shop just west of the church set fire to the cupola and the edifice was burned to the ground.

When the little flock saw their house of worship in ashes, and remembered the long years of hard striving that had gone into its building, they despaired of beginning another such struggle. Iowa City was growing but slowly and the crowds that had thronged the town at conventions during its State Capital days were no longer there to aid with their easy spending. But the community heartened the little

band with sympathy and material help in creating a new church home that grew, bit by bit, even in the stringency of the Civil War and the consuming poverty of its aftermath. Help came also in the growth of the University, which brought more people to the town. More interest was centered in the Presbyterian Church when its sister society, the Congregationalists, suspended activities for a time and the United Presbyterian Church left the field entirely, turning over their property to the Presbyterians. Gradually the goal of a new house of worship was reached. Another brick church was completed and dedicated in 1865. Disaster struck again in 1877 when a great windstorm wrecked the church spire, hurling the bell and 100 feet of the 153-foot tower to the ground. The new tower was built square and low, merely a bell tower.

A separatist branch of the Presbyterian denomination, known as the New School Presbyterians, was early organized in Iowa City. In 1866, when a union was entered into between the New and the Old School Presbyterians, the New School Society at Iowa City was abandoned. The stone building the New School had erected stood for many years on its site on the south side of Burlington Street, between Clinton and Capitol. The stone above the front door bore the inscription: Presbyterian. Erected 1845.

Among the early pastors of the New School Church was the able, but strange, Reverend Samuel Storrs Howe. He was deeply interested in history, and after suspension of the Annals of Iowa by the State Historical Society of Iowa in 1874, he personally published three volumes in a new series which, beginning in 1882, came to be known as Howe's Annals. For many years he lived alone in the rat-infested damp basement of the Stone Church, caring for the collection of the State Historical Society that had been placed in the building for safe keeping.

To the early history of the Presbyterian Church in Iowa City tradition adds an oft-told tale, the story of "Hummer and His Bell." The Reverend Michael Hummer, first regular resident pastor, had obtained the bell for the local church among other contributions secured in the East during his campaign for funds. Stationed in the cupola of the Iowa City church, the fine bell became widely known for the unusual sweetness and resonance of its tone.

Hummer was an able, original and striking man, in many ways an effective minister. "When court met in Iowa City", wrote Theodore Parvin in his Diary, "we adjourned in a body at sermon time to hear the smartest preacher if not the greatest saint." In his youth an atheist, the Reverend Hummer was converted so passionately that he joined the austere church of the minister "who had won him to Belief." The trouble afterward with his convictions seems to have been

that they could not remain within so narrow a fold as the Presbyterian Church, but saw greener fields in the realms of Swedenborg and various "other spirit tappings." At the best he was merely eccentric, but orthodoxy could not condone so multicolored a faith, and in the early 1850's, he was dismissed from the Presbyterian ministry.

Bitter from his disgrace, Hummer plotted as an act of revenge to remove his much-prized bell to Keokuk, where he planned the building of a Swedenborgian Tabernacle which the Iowa City bell was to grace.

Assisted by his satellite "Dr. Margrave", he climbed to the cupola of the church and lowered the bell to the ground. His accomplice then departed in search of a wagon, leaving him perched in the cupola. Within a short time a crowd had gathered to jeer at the parson in his strange plight. Someone had removed the ladder to the cupola, and Hummer answered his assailants with a volley of epithets, tugging bricks loose from the cupola to hurl down at them.

Not until the wagon had arrived and a delegation of citizens had hurried the bell out of town and sunk it in the Iowa River for safe keeping was the ladder replaced and the minister allowed to descend from his perch and leave for Keokuk -- minus his coveted bell. The plan had been to return it to the Presbyterian Church once Hummer was out of town, but among the group of citizens who had rescued the bell was one as tricky as Hummer himself, and when the time arrived to dredge for it the bell was gone from the river. This citizen had broken faith with the group and secreted it in a different hiding place. Then, several years later, when a group were starting for California, this man removed the bell from the river just before he himself left town, packed it in a barrel of sawdust and carried it west to Salt Lake City where he sold it to Brigham Young. In that Mormon stronghold the bell was used first in a church and then reposed in a tithing house for a season, and later hung in the private schoolhouse which Brigham Young built for his children.

Brigham Young offered to return the relic to Iowa City should the freight charges be paid for at the end of the line, but Hummer's Bell was never brought home.

A group of 11 members was organized as a Baptist Church on Saturday, June 26, 1841, by Elders Carpenter of Dubuque, and W. B. Morey from Galena, Illinois. On the following Sabbath, Elder Morey "buried in Baptism" Fred Hardee and John Wolf "beneath the limpid waters of the Iowa River", according to Cyrus Sanders' Journal, "while the crowd upon the bank observed the scene with solemn decorum."

When donations for a church building reached \$5,000, the Baptists erected a brick structure with a large front portico and Corinthian columns on a lot in block 51, which had been donated by a special act of the Legislative Assembly in 1844. The building was dedicated in November.

The Universalists made up a small but influential group of worshipers at Iowa City during the late forties. The first Universalist Society of Iowa City was organized at the house of Edward Foster on November 6, 1841.

The first pastor of the Iowa City Universalists was the Reverend A. R. Gardiner, who went East on a quest for funds for a church building. Among the substantial donors were Horace Greeley and P. T. Barnum. The first church was built in 1844 on the west half of the north half of block 66, but was destroyed by fire in 1856. A new and larger edifice was built under the leadership of a Miss Chapin, who was acting as pastor at the time of the fire.

The Unitarian Church was originally organized as the Universalist. In 1878 the American Unitarian Association sent the Reverend Oscar Clute to Iowa City to form a Unitarian Society. He made arrangements for the use of the Universalist church building, and in the absence of their leader the Universalists became absorbed into the Unitarian group. About 1906 the church building was sold to the University and the Unitarians built a new house of worship on Gilbert Street at Iowa Avenue.

The Society of Friends (Quakers) held meetings in private homes until, in 1869, they were able to build what they termed "Half-a-House." There the matter rested until the death of Aquila Whiteacre gave them a little inheritance of \$500 with which to build the other "half-a-house."

That Episcopalians were among the pioneers of Johnson County is proved by the record of a lot granted to them for the erection of a house of worship, but their inability to build within the period required by the gift caused them to lose the lot. There was a provisional parish for the Episcopalians at Iowa City as early as 1847, but the society was not incorporated until 1853. There ensued a long period of renting a meeting place, which endured until the Iowa City Trinity Episcopal Church was ready for occupancy. The rectory was completed in 1878, and in the same year the credence table was placed in "Trinity."

The first Christian Church in Johnson County was organized in 1856 by a few families living in the vicinity of Higbee's Grove, south of Iowa City. The first meeting place was in the district schoolhouse. In 1863 the Protestant Episcopal Church building on Iowa Avenue, in Iowa City, was purchased by the father of John Porter, one of the Christian

Church members, and presented to the society as a gift. It was then that the group moved to Iowa City and reorganized themselves as the Church of Christ, the members of which called themselves the Disciples of Christ. A more modern house of worship was dedicated on January 23, 1887.

For years the Congregationalists had worshiped jointly with other congregations, until the desire for a building of their own became so strong that they formed a society to gain that end and were incorporated December 5, 1856. Forced to suspend activities several times because of scanty membership, the society still kept alive and repeatedly refused to remain "suspended." The struggle for growth frequently did not go beyond an actual struggle for existence, but gradually the membership grew until in 1868 the congregation was able to erect a \$30,000 building and in the same year to install a \$2,500 organ.

It was in the sixties that the Congregationalists began to attract attention as a church attuned to the conditions of the educational atmosphere in which it was located. It emphasized the cultural side of religion, invited eminent lecturers to its pulpit, and tried to harmonize its teachings with the rapidly changing beliefs of the period. The conflict between religion and science was becoming active. John Tyndall had given a series of lectures challenging institutional religion and especially the orthodox conception of prayer. Although Tyndall had presented his lectures in the East, his ideas had filtered through to the trans-Mississippi region. On December 29, 1872, Amos Bronson Alcott preached to the Congregationalists in Iowa City on the "Ideal Religion." His daughter, Louisa M. Alcott, wrote in her diary, that autumn, of "getting father ready for his lecture tour through the midwest." In Iowa Alcott spoke first at Dubuque, then at Grinnell, then came eagerly to Iowa City, where he listened and talked informally with various groups before he gave his own discourse. He had been curious to learn what orthodox Congregationalism had to say of Tyndall. He found, he said, "a kind of religion which, while Puritan, and to the pioneers, orthodox, was yet as liberal as New England Congregationalism" that had developed in the "New West."

The Welsh Congregational Church was organized in January, 1846. Three other Welsh churches grew from this beginning. For long they clung to their native language in their worship, services being given in Welsh alone until 1897; then, as a new generation came into the fold, the sermon and prayers and songs were given in both Welsh and English until 1911.

Each year during the early days the Welsh churches celebrated their great festival of the year -- the "Cymanfa."

The word is of Welsh derivation, and characterizes the spirit of the festival that was always held during the beautiful prairie Indian summer: gathering together, each of the four churches was host to the other three for two or three days during a fortnight of religious inspiration and fellowship. A few remained behind to care for the stock but everyone else stepped into the wagons and moved on to enjoy the mass hospitality of the next church. The time was passed in preaching and singing. Services were held each day -- morning and afternoon, and again in the evening. The singing, hearty and full-voiced, yet plaintive with minors, rang out among the hills until the whole land was murmurous with song.

The Lutheran Church in Johnson County was an active force from the date of its inception. Services were conducted in the Third Ward School, the Statehouse, and occasionally in private homes. At first the German Lutheran and English Lutheran congregations labored jointly, but difficulties arose and each church then formed separate congregations. The Zion German Lutheran Church purchased a site for a building in 1860, and began its construction in March of the same year. The building itself was completed in 1861, but not until many years later were the Lutherans finished with the interior arrangements and furnishings. In 1892 the Sunday School added a library room stocked with 600 German volumes.

The English Lutherans built a small church as early as 1855, but dedicated a \$10,000 new church home in 1894. Thereupon the church had a 200 per cent increase in membership.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church was erected in 1927, on the corner of Gilbert and Jefferson streets, as the Lutheran University Church.

The founding of the United Brethren Church in Johnson County took place with the society's organization in February, 1856, but the Civil War halted the construction and dedication of their church until May 1, 1870. This took place in the village of Shueyville in Jefferson Township.

The Christian Science movement had its inception in Iowa City in 1902. During the first year meetings were held in the homes of members of the group, but interest so increased that a church society was organized in 1903 and a hall procured for the meetings. About 1920 the site for a church building was bought, a part of the Mark Ranney estate on East College Street. The year 1930 saw the erection of their First Church of Christ Scientist.

The story of Iowa City's best known bell, though not so spectacular as that of Hummer's Bell, began with the purchase of a bell from the "Old Stone Church", which was the new School Presbyterian Church, the fifth to be built in the city. The church committee bought a small, sharp-toned bell, and were gleeful over what they thought a good bargain. When it arrived, however, there was a storm of protest. Some members of the congregation thought the size "ridiculously small for a church bell;" others were outraged by its "sharp peremptory tone." The end of the controversy was that the bell was never hung in the church at all, for the disgruntled members refused to assist in paying for it. Finally the offender was sold to the Mechanics' Association which promptly hung it in the cupola of its academy building. That was the first bell to ring in the city, and all the many church societies and various schools that found shelter under the academy's all-embracing roof harkened to its shrill, grating summons. It even rang the alarm for fires. The last service this little bell performed for the community was to call the first students of the University to their classes. But a naughty prank cracked its already irritating voice. One very cold night some students climbed into the belfry, turned the bell mouth up, filled it with water and let it freeze. In the morning no bell rang and no students went to class. There was silence in the belfry until a thaw melted the ice, when it was discovered that the expansion had cracked the bell. But for some years "Johnson's Rattle", as the students had christened it (for the University's first professor), continued its call to class, with tones as peremptory as they were cracked.

CHAPTER 12

NEWSPAPERS AT IOWA'S FIRST CAPITAL

For a vivid picture of the young Iowa City in her beginning days we need only to read through her early newspaper files. Those were the days when competing editors thoroughly and loudly loathed each other, in language that no newspaper of a century later would think of printing. Everybody read the editorials then. They were a continued story of personal rivalry and animosity with a personal appeal that no mere news page could have. Was it, we wonder, the fervor of party loyalty that kept editors William Crum and Ver Plank Van Antwerp struggling for the last smashing word? Or did they now and then exchange an understanding look of comradeship when they met in the tavern barrooms, later to resume their public feud for circulation's sake?

Iowa City had no local newspapers during her first two years. People depended, from 1837-1841, on the Burlington, Dubuque, and Davenport papers; and the occasional copies of the New York Tribune and other publications that came in.

The first newspaper in Iowa City was the Iowa Standard, a Whig paper started by young William Crum, when he was but 20 years old. The Standard began its existence at Bloomington, according to the statement on the first page of the issue of October 23, 1840, "Printed and published simultaneously at Bloomington and Iowa City." Actually there was neither press nor office at Iowa City until Crum changed his headquarters hoping to find a better field in the territorial capital than in the river town. The name was changed with the move and on June 3, 1841, the first issue of the Iowa City Standard appeared.

Two days before the election, on July 31, 1841, the first number of the Iowa City Argus made its appearance as a Democratic paper. The editor was Dr. Nathaniel Jackson. But the Democrats apparently were not satisfied with the Argus, and four months later, December 4, 1841, another Democratic journal came before the public, the Iowa Capital Reporter, edited by Ver Plank Van Antwerp, called the "General" because he had been educated at West Point.

Van Antwerp pointed out that the "tone and temper of the Argus were far from giving political satisfaction to our political friends", and since an efficient Democratic press was needed, explained that he had been asked to become a proprietor of the Reporter. His associate was Thomas Hughes, former editor of the Bloomington Herald.

The new paper was politically on the right side of the Territorial Legislature, and in its third issue expressed thanks "for action of the legislature in giving incidental printing of both Houses to the office." This coup naturally drew fire from the Whig Standard, which ran a cartoon attacking Van Antwerp, entitled "Locofocoism or, the Question of Public Printing settled!" The Standard's editorial was just as scathing, on December 18, 1841:

"The second number of the Reporter is before us. The Public Printing having not been disposed of on that date, its language is still about the most temperate that ever issues from its Editor."

The editors were forever declaring that this, their parting shot, would be followed only by dignified silence; that no further remark, whatever its nature, could possibly win their attention. But time always gave the lie to such resolutions. Following issues always ran the usual amount of heat in both editorial pages. The Argus, doubtless did battle in the prevailing fashion; but it had both the Whigs and the hostile Democrats to fight. The next year (February 1842) the Argus printing establishment was purchased by the Capital Reporter in order, according to the Reporter, "that there might be but a single Democrat paper published here at the seat of Government."

All three papers were weeklies. The Standard had four pages 20 by 15, carrying four columns; the Reporter four pages 17 by 22, with seven columns. The price of the Standard was \$2.50 in advance, or \$2.75 for three months, \$3 for six months, \$3.25 for nine months, or \$3.50 at the expiration of the year. The Reporter, on the other hand, was \$3 a year, payable in advance.

There were minor changes in names; the Iowa City Standard resuming its original title of the Iowa Standard in December, 1842; and in 1849 when the Whig party tottered, becoming the Iowa City Republican.

Mail came seldom and was carried on horseback. News from Washington arrived not oftener than once a month. However, during sessions of the Territorial Legislature, the service was improved and mail was carried in a two-horse hack. This, of course, helped the papers. National and foreign news was quoted from other newspapers. The usual order of contents, for the Reporter, ran thus: page one gave full reports of the Iowa Legislature when it was in session, plus national and foreign items. Then page two held the local news and editorials (sometimes the reader could scarcely tell the difference) with fillers of all sorts -- humor, short-clipped news items, and maxims. Page three was given to news items and advertisements and page four to poetry, advertisements, and occasionally short stories.

To read the news of those hectic forties and fifties is to assume the settler's state to some degree. They heard that Admiral Stafford was before Alexandria, while Egypt's Mehemet Ali planned to resist England to the utmost, events months old by the time they reached Iowa City. Elder Orson Hyde, a Mormon prophet, wrote of "seeing a hand grasp a sword in the heavens", near Gaffa, where he was traveling. A small item headed "The World Bankrupt" -- briefly stated the condition of England, France, Russia, Spain and a half dozen other Nations, concluding -- "The U. S. must raise a loan of 12 millions to carry her through the year."

Personal comment of rival papers was never made drab by understatement. Van Antwerp called the Standard the "Whiggery Humbug"; and young Crum termed the Reporter the "Locofoco Rag." There was no end to derogatory personal nicknames: Crum was "Silly Billy"; Van Antwerp was "My Lord Pomposity"; Crum said Van Antwerp's "longwinded speeches were as frothy as beer and as empty as his head." To which "the General" replied: "We laugh to scorn both the wretched demagogical slang and its authors."

Both editors, in the heat of their wrath, forgot their grammar. "We were not aware", said Van Antwerp, "until the last Standard appeared, that it looked suspicious for anyone to visit the capitol as often as they seen fit." And Crum hurled a denial to a statement by the Reporter: "The black-hearted villain who compered it knew that it was a lie when he done so."

In this little town of 700 or 800 inhabitants, surrounded by country not easy to travel, everyone knew who went on a trip, or any other local news, long before a paper could appear with it. There was little left for the papers aside from the legislative proceedings and such major events as a steamboat's arrival at Iowa City, elections, celebrations with speeches, or the organization of new businesses.

Among the advertisements we find the most telling details of the goods bought and sold by the settlers. One went to the grocery for brown and loaf sugars, molasses, Cavendish and common tobacco, indigo, madder, "allum", salt petre, candles, powder, and shot lead.

C. R. Robbins, 10 Clinton Street, advertised his marble caneheads and breastpins. Jones and Powell offered to exchange goods for pork, dried beef, hides, beeswax, tallow, etc. But Wesley Jones & Co. demanded cash for their London and American cassimeres, satinets, Kentucky jeans, hard times, beaverteens, gentlemen's figured merino cravats, leg-horn bonnets, palm leaf hoods, silk and fur hats, paper, ink, and quills.

If you had an ache or a chill, you went to a store for anti-fever pills, balsam of wild cherry, Indian tonic, or Bragg's Indian Queen vegetable sugar coated pills.

Other "ads" announced new community activities: Notice of an Anti-Slavery Convention, Notice of a Universalist Convention, Notice of a Meeting for Organizing a Fire Company, Notice of a Shooting Match for a Hog Weighing Seven Hundred pounds, Temperance Notice (to organize a Total Abstinence Society). Frequently there were Lyceum Notices with such topics for discussion as, Ought Capital Punishment to Exist by Law?

Lawyers and doctors inserted their business cards; hotels announced openings as did Dr. Reynold's School, Mechanics' Academy, Iowa City College, Iowa City Institute, and Mrs. Hunt's School. Rewards were offered for a Runaway Boy (Indentured), a Stolen Horse, a Stray Heifer, a Lost Flat Boat.

The paper would ask whether you had old brass to spare and if so, would you please contribute it toward the making of a town clock to be attached to the Mechanics' building. Vocal music lessons were offered twice a week at the Methodist Protestant Church by W. B. Snyder and T. Snyder, who used the "Pestalozzian system."

Here, too, was an advertiser of vigorous reader appeal: "Frank Reyne, at the Big Striped Pole on the Public Square, front of the Capitol, Shaves Smoother, Washes Cleaner, and cooks better than any Amateur in the West. During the sessions of the Legislature, Pheasant, Quail and Squirrel suppers will be provided upon the shortest notice and served up a little slicker than any out West."

The Capital Reporter was not always satisfied with the firewood offered by subscribers in payment of their subscriptions. On one occasion the editor asked the patrons of his paper to bring wood that was "well seasoned and convenient to use in the stove, not old scraggy logs, so knotty the Devil can't split them."

Frankly partisan though the regular newspapers of the early days were, and sometimes marred by childishness and poor taste, yet they were free to speak their minds for their side of a question, and their exuberance was part of a high spirited era.

In 1848, a lack of financial support brought the suspension of the Standard, Iowa City's first newspaper. After a brief while it was revived, but under a new name -- the Iowa City Republican, which held a dominant place among Iowa newspapers until the late 1890's. One of its brilliant editors was Herbert S. Fairall.

The Capital Reporter had been christened the Iowa State Press by 1860. Some ten years later, the Honorable John P. Irish began his long editorship of the Press, which he conducted for 18 years, making it an outstanding paper in every way except financially.

The Iowa City Citizen was established in 1891, and prospered especially under the editorship of E. E. Johnson, who had charge of the paper for a number of years, beginning in 1907. A merger was formed of the Iowa City Daily Press and the Iowa City Citizen in 1920, with Mr. Merritt C. Speidel as president and publisher of the company. The new Press-Citizen building, erected in 1937, provided the finest of equipment and ideal working conditions. One of the outstanding newspaper plants in the Nation, it attracted considerable attention at the time of its opening, which occurred May 22, 1937.

The small towns of Johnson County made interesting newspaper history. Notable were the Oxford Leader, the Lone Tree Reporter, and the Solon Economist.

The Bohemian and German newspapers of the early years of Johnson County likewise made names for themselves. Solon was so largely Bohemian in the beginning of its settlement that its first newspaper was in that language, the Slovan Americky. The German newspapers numbered three: The Volksfreund appearing in 1874, and the Iowa City News and the Iowa City Post, each starting about 1881.

The Post was the longest lived and acquired a circulation of over 1,500. The politics of all the foreign papers was Democratic.

It is a tragic loss to the history of Johnson County that the files of all the papers of the county, from the first issue of the Standard to 1856, were almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1858. No files exist of any papers in the county from 1848 to 1858.

Since the State University was so integral a part of the county, its newspapers had city-wide circulation. The first University paper was aptly named the Reporter and appeared as a monthly in 1868, later becoming semi-monthly. Another paper, the Vidette, was started in 1879, but in 1881 the two papers were combined under the title Vidette-Reporter. In 1891, the Quill, a literary magazine, made its appearance, but ten years later the field was swept clear of previous incumbents when the Daily-Iowan was started and published by the students of the College of Journalism at the University.

CHAPTER 13

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The State University of Iowa was created by the First General Assembly of Iowa, February 25, 1847. But endowment to ensure its existence came still earlier, in 1846, with the admission of Iowa into the Union. It was then that the Federal Government bestowed upon the University-to-be a grant of 46,080 acres of land. Since the capital was to be removed to a more central point in the State, the public buildings at Iowa City and the lots upon which they were located were donated to the University. But delay in the selection of the lands that had been granted by the Government of the United States, and the postponement of the removal of the capital, left the trustees of the State University without funds and without buildings. For seven years the University trustees did little more than secure the selection of public lands and provide for their sale -- which they accomplished by sacrificing the interests of the University to the greed of speculators.

At the first sale of University lands in November, 1851, a section was sold for \$5.05 an acre. On February 28, 1852, the trustees set the minimum price at \$10 an acre; but in 1854 the unsold acres were appraised at \$3.64, over 27,000 acres yet remaining to be sold. Up to 1859 the average price of an acre was little more than \$3.52. A sale of University land continuing through four days, in June, 1855, resulted in the disposal of 18,500 acres -- of which over 11,000 went into the hands of five trustees of the University. Feeling ran high over this disposition of the lands and the assertion was made that this sale had been conducted for the benefit of private individuals (or the members of the Legislature and their friends) who had some interest in the lands.

While the legislative act of 1847 had established the University at Iowa City, it permitted branches of the parent school in other parts of the State. These extensions were designated by the General Assembly of 1849 to be placed at Dubuque and at Fairfield. The one at Dubuque never went beyond the naming of a board of trustees; but at Fairfield a site had been selected and \$2,000 expended upon a building when a hurricane swept it away. Apparently looking upon this tempest as a sign to desist, the legislators severed the "branch" from its Iowa City parent.

Three normal schools had also been created by the 1849 General Assembly (at Andrew, at Oskaloosa, and at Mt. Pleasant) which were virtually branches of the University, but they seem never to have effected any organization. By the

constitution of 1857 the State University was located permanently at Iowa City, without branches of any kind elsewhere.

The board of trustees of the State University determined in February, 1854, to put the institution into active operation, leasing the Mechanics' Academy for that purpose on the first of May at an annual rental of \$250 to \$300. In September, 1854, the University was formally opened in this building with Alexander Johnson as the sole professor, but before the close of the college year other members were added to the faculty, and temporary partitions were put up in both the upper and lower stories, in order to give each professor a room to himself.

The first catalogue, issued in 1857, lists the number of students enrolled as 124, of which 41 were women. Only 19, however, were collegiate students; the others were in the Normal and preparatory departments where the men numbered 68 and the women 37. The first degree was conferred upon Edson Smith, a Bachelor of Science, at the close of the college year in 1858.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees in January, 1858, a serious discussion was closed by the adoption of a resolution excluding women from regular instruction in the State University, but to attend lectures might be granted in special cases. In 1859, however, this order excluding women was so far modified as to permit them to attend the Normal department. In the early years of Iowa, "education" was directed mainly toward preparation to teach school, an attitude that gave rise to the University ruling that "in return for free instruction each student must sign a pledge to follow the occupation of teaching for at least several years."

The year 1858-1859 saw the University's doors closed because of insufficient funds. All departments were reopened in 1860, however, Mechanics' Hall still housing the classes over a period of several years until the erection of Old South Hall. When the Academy was no longer needed for class sessions, it was turned over to the students for a dormitory. Probably five hundred dollars was used to prepare the building for this purpose, and those occupying the rooms paid a stipulated sum each term for rent. Owing to the pranks played by the students and the general reputation the building gained after this, it was nicknamed "Old Sin Trap." One of these pranks, it will be remembered, was the cracking of the bell by freezing.

In 1848 the Board of Trustees of the University appointed a committee from among its members to formulate a plan for a college of law. This was a premature idea, however, and 20 years passed before any such plan was made.

In the autumn of 1865 an informal law school was started in Des Moines under the tutelage of Judges George G. Wright and Chester C. Cole of the Supreme Court. Instruction began with two students, a number soon augmented to twelve or more. Three evenings each week were given to the meetings, which consisted of an examination upon assigned readings with such explanations and information as the assignment required.

With the failure of the General Assembly of 1866 to enact a statute establishing a department of law at the University, the Des Moines school was extended and made permanent, even to becoming incorporated as the Iowa Law School, with power to confer degrees. All the Federal and State judges in Iowa, and many who had retired, constituted the corporation. On December 4, 1866, the degree of LL.B. was granted the 12 students who had completed the course. They were admitted to the bar on the recommendation of an examining committee appointed by the Supreme Court.

In 1866 the General Assembly of Iowa granted an appropriation of \$20,000 for the support of the University. But the measure reached victory only after a bitter contest. John P. Irish, a member of the House in 1868, was the persistent fighter who brought to the University this first general appropriation from the State treasury. "Long impressed", according to Irish, "with the opposition to the institution -- indeed its almost friendless condition", the "plan of uniting with it the professions of medicine and law in order that powerful friends in these professions might become its allies" was conceived.

When the time came for organizing a law department at the University, it was proposed to use for its establishment \$7,000 of the \$20,000 general allotment to the University, and to subtract \$2,000 for a law library. In September, 1868, the Iowa Law School became identified with the law department of the University. Mr. William G. Hammond of the Des Moines bar, who had become associated with Judges Wright and Cole in the Iowa Law School in 1866, became resident professor, on the transfer of the school from Des Moines to Iowa City, and soon afterward became chancellor of the law department, while Wright and Cole were made assistant professors. All who had graduated from the Iowa Law School, and there had been three one-year classes, were to be recognized as graduates of the law department of the State University.

At first the course of study remained as before -- a single year -- but it was arranged in three terms to correspond with the collegiate year of the University. In 1874 an advanced course offering an additional year of study was established. By 1890 it was announced that students expecting

to complete the course and take the degree must pass a preliminary examination in the English language (of grammar grade only) and in the outlines of English and American history. But persons having completed a high school or academic course, or those holding a teacher's certificate, would be admitted without examination. Gradually the requirements for admission and graduation were increased until two years of college work was required for admission and a full three-year course in law for graduation.

The law department was at first housed in a portion of the Old Stone Capitol, but when the Old Science Hall was completed in 1885 the "cabinet" was removed to that building and the rooms which it had occupied were given to the law classes. In 1907, the old Universalist Church at the corner of Iowa Avenue and Clinton Street came into the possession of the University and for a time supplied additional lecture rooms for the law classes. In 1910-1911 the college of law occupied its new building, an independent structure.

The college of medicine began its work in 1870, but for 20 years previously the University possessed a recognized medical department. The College of Physicians and Surgeons at Davenport, later under the same title located at Keokuk, was "recognized and established" by law as the medical department of the University in 1851, its graduates being permitted to practice "physics, surgery and obstetricks" within the State. In the same year the institution was given aid by a grant of \$5,000 from the sale of the saline lands belonging to the University. From 1858 on, however, the Keokuk institution was only "nominally connected" with the University and received no financial aid from its funds. About ten years after the constitutional separation of the branch at Keokuk, agitation began for the creation of a medical department at the University. Even after the department was authorized, legislative action was taken against it because of inadequate facilities to carry it on. But in 1870 the University Medical College at Iowa City began its straitened existence. Cramped for room and funds, it struggled on. Lectures were held first in Professor Parvin's living rooms in South Hall; then a hospital "of sorts" began in old Mechanics' Hall, the refuge of so many poverty stricken educational ventures. No appropriation for a medical building was forthcoming, however urgent the demand, until 12 years later, in 1882. Then the General Assembly set apart \$30,000 for a structure that was thoroughly adequate for the time.

On March 10, 1901, lightning struck the medical building and it was destroyed by fire, taking with it historic old South Hall. Temporary quarters for the medical college were provided by a flimsy one-story wooden structure perched upon the foundation of the burned building to become familiarly known as the "Medical Shed."

In 1904-1905 several units of Medical buildings were erected on Jefferson Street. These were occupied until they were outgrown and the Medical College and its hospitals were removed to the West campus across the river. The optional three-term graded course presented at the opening of the course of lectures in 1876-1877 was gradually increased until in 1910 the course covered four years, based upon two years of college and followed by a year of internship in a hospital.

The other professional schools of the University also had meager beginnings.

Sometime prior to 1880 lectures in dentistry were begun in connection with the medical department, but the dentists of the State wanted a chair of dentistry at the University. The first request for this was in 1873; a second visit by representatives of the dental profession was made to the Regents in 1881, and again the matter was referred to the General Assembly. Although the legislature did not comply with this request, the Regents authorized the opening of a dental department in 1882 on the condition that it be self-supporting, the University agreeing to provide a room for its use. The State University finances could not pay salaries, hence any dental faculty must depend upon fees for support.

In 1896 the Regents asked the General Assembly for sufficient funds to place the dental department on an equal footing with other professional schools, a request that brought \$2,000 for equipment. A room had been assigned in one corner of the new medical building, where sufficient work was accomplished to warrant the conferring of the first degrees in March, 1883. The department grew steadily in spite of various increases in requirements in admission, in tuition, and in extension of time of study until, within five years from the date of its establishment, it became entirely self-sustaining. In 1895 a new building, costing \$25,000, was erected and occupied. For 20 years this building was made to serve overcrowded conditions until an ample new structure was built.

In 1885 the State Association of Pharmacists petitioned for a department in the University, requesting only that a room be provided for laboratory and lecture purposes. In September, 1891 the department of pharmacy was put upon the same basis as other departments and the third floor of the new chemistry building given to the department. For about 20 years the department occupied quarters in this building before going into a modern structure of its own. The school of pharmacy always paid all its own expenses, and continued in growth through ever advancing higher requirements.

June 18, 1897, brought great sadness to Iowa City and to the State of Iowa insofar as its possessions and valuable books were concerned. On the morning of June 18, 1897, lightning struck the old building that housed the University library and the science apparatus. Within an hour the entire building was aflame. The loss was estimated at \$100,000 in books alone. Some 40,000 books and pamphlets were either destroyed or damaged beyond repair. From the Talbot Collection of 4,500 volumes about 2,000 were saved. One life was lost when, in an attempt to save valuable documents, Lycurgus Leek, a fireman, was caught by falling beams and killed.

The burning of Old South Hall March 10, 1901, was a loss gravely felt as the University records of student attendance from the earliest years were destroyed together with other valuable documents. The building was old and fire spread to all corners of it almost at once. A host of treasured memories vanished with the burning of that historic structure.

The University subsisted for years upon an annual grant of \$25,000, though this amount had to be pieced out from time to time by "promises" to pay for grave necessities that constantly arose and required extra grants by the State Legislature. It was a happy day when at long last a legislative measure was enacted in 1896 granting to the University a levy of a one-tenth mill tax for building purposes, one-fourth of the amount asked by its president.

The year 1903 saw a number of changes at the University. The semester plan was substituted for the three term division of the academic year, and summer was recognized as the only vacation period. Scheduling was made for the entire year. Fellowships were planned as an aid to worthy students, help in this way having formerly been spontaneous rather than systematic. Certain scientific services were to receive academic recognition, as in the Bahama Expedition. The members sent out on that investigation received three full credits each. The next innovation was one that had long been desired by both faculty and students. Since its beginning, the University commencement of the College of Liberal Arts had included a program of orations by all students whose grades had reached a certain peak. But in 1903 the senior class rebelled at this custom of an earlier day and petitioned for one commencement speaker and the abolition of the "honor roll", which had formerly furnished the day's orators. The petition was granted.

Although for many years there were students doing graduate work, it was not until June, 1900, that definite action was taken toward the establishment of a graduate college.

Laenas G. Weld was made dean; there was no tuition; fellowships and scholarships were available. Two years later additional regulations established one scholarship in the graduate college of the University for the benefit of each of the standard colleges in the State. No student became a recognized candidate for a degree until an acceptable thesis subject had been approved by the department in which he was engaged in research.

In 1913 the Terrell Dam, one of the historic properties near Iowa City, was offered as a gift to the University by Mr. and Mrs. Euclid Sanders. (Mrs. Sanders was Mary Terrell before her marriage). Arrangements were at once made to make the dam a part of the apparatus of the school of applied science with the view to its providing power for practical purposes.

In 1904, \$10,000 was appropriated for a dam and water power near the University campus. Following the completion of the dam and the erection of the engineering buildings, the School of Applied Science was established in connection with the College of Liberal Arts, with Professor Laenas G. Weld as director. Professor William G. Raymond, who came to the Chair of Engineering in 1904, was made dean of the new college in 1905.

Shortly afterward an effort was made to establish a practice school and observation courses for the school of education, but without successful results. The authorities also tried to secure the Unitarian Church building, for a practice school, which later became the property of the University. Afterwards this action was withdrawn. Around 1915, however, the public high school of Iowa City became associated with the College of Education as a school for observation, and classes in elementary work for laboratory purposes in the study of supervision were provided.

Within a few years the University had its own elementary schools, from nursery through high school, to furnish laboratories for observation and practice for its students in the College of Education.

During the early 1900's (1903-1904) the chair of the science and art of education had been charged with the inspection of high schools desiring accredited relations with the University. A plan for such inspection had been carried out irregularly until 1900, and thereafter systematically. In 1905 the Board of Regents declared that admission to the University should be based only upon inspection made by the University inspector.

The growth of the University from a ten-acre square of campus with one building to 400 acres with more than fifty

buildings seemed tedious and slow to those engaged in it. But expansion was steady however rocky the road. Each new growth meant years of patient endeavor and waiting before recognition could be managed. Each college had its history of struggle even though more ample funds in later years made the effort appear less heroic.

Geographically the University came to be divided into two parts, East Campus separated from the West by the winding Iowa River. The East Campus grew around the Old Stone Capitol because of its architectural perfection, its historical associations, and its use as the Administration building. Dominating the West Campus is University Hospital, with its 145-foot tower of white stone, visible for many miles. Architecturally the buildings were set up in varied style with Italian Renaissance predominating in the eastern group and modified early English on the west. Careful landscaping appeared in later years. Shrubs, bushes, and flower beds were set around the older buildings; new trees, new sodded terraces, new parkways in the newer section. The Fine Arts Campus was exquisitely landscaped to form a picturesque west bank of the river, where before there was nothing but swamp. Much of the East Campus, composed of city blocks, grew to be an integral part of the town.

The State hospitals connected with the University rendered distinguished service over a varied field. The General Hospital, major unit of the West Campus, was made possible through an appropriation of \$2,250,000 by the Fortieth General Assembly of Iowa, supplemented by a gift of an equal sum from the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. These funds became available in 1924. The General Hospital was completed and opened for patients in mid-November, 1928. Its accommodations provided for 700 patients. The University Hospitals give many specialized services not common to the average hospital, facilities that were the natural outgrowth of the service requirements as well as the needs of a far-visioned and ambitious staff.

The first great stride toward the care of indigent sick and infirm was the Perkins Law, which was passed by the Thirty-sixth General Assembly of Iowa in 1915. This statute provided that children of the State, under 16 years of age and afflicted with a deformity or suffering from a malady that might be remedied, and whose parents or guardians were unable to provide medical or surgical treatment, might be sent to the hospital of the University of Iowa at the expense of the State.

Two years of service under this law showed the need was far beyond expectations and the Thirty-seventh General Assembly in 1917 was asked for an appropriation to build a

special children's hospital. The bill passed with no dissenting vote. Two years later, by an act of the Thirty-eighth General Assembly, the service was extended to adults on a similar basis.

Oakdale, the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium, is located on a 280-acre farm six miles northwest of Iowa City. The Sanatorium was opened February 1, 1908; and since 1913 has been run almost entirely for the "State patients." By 1941, at least, 85 per cent of all persons using the State Hospital service at Iowa City were State patients.

The growth of a great modern university implies the weaving together of many interests. To look back at the little beginning of the State University of Iowa, with its handful of students and its one professor, is to see the single strand of "training in the classics." As the years came and passed the University held to its dominant impulse, but its province widened to include all branches of knowledge. The College of Liberal Arts became mother to many children. One branch of learning after another took steps that grew eventually into schools or colleges. Every phase of learning found its place at S. U. I.; schools of Letters, of Fine Arts, of Journalism, and of Religion, were companioned by colleges of Commerce, of Education, of Child Welfare, and of Extension. The University Hospital developed into the State Hospital with immeasurable and varied service to the people of Iowa.

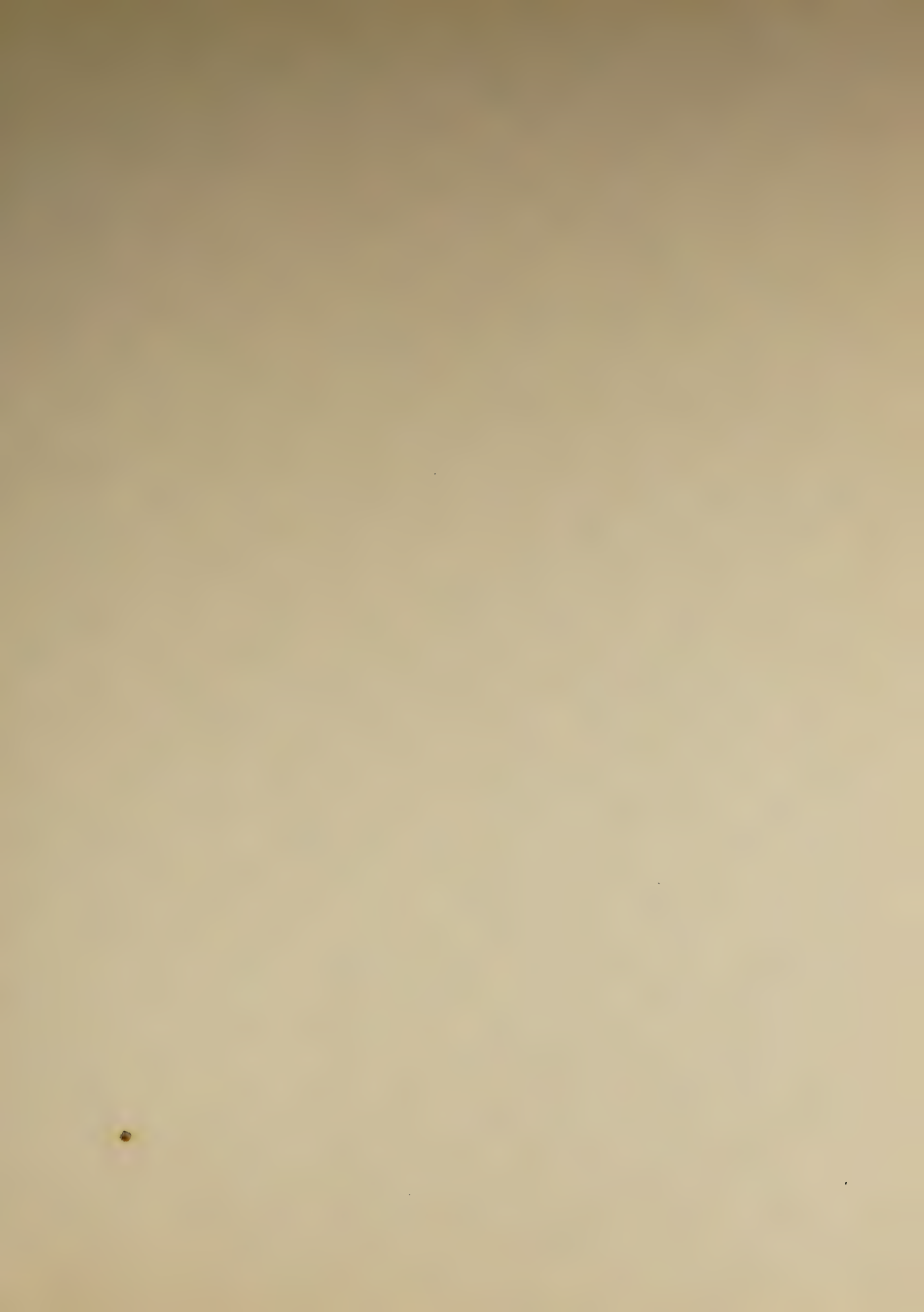
IN RETROSPECT

So strong and diverse had been the forces going into the making of Johnson County that for years it was torn by conflicting ambitions. The steady influx of groups from the Old World made cleavage in the unity of the county. Years were required for these groups to be assimilated into a single American ideal; they brought the riches of different cultures, but this was a contribution that remained foreign until time could merge the strange and the native to form a harmonious whole.

The various settlements throughout the county were so busy struggling, each for its individual life, that they represented the importance of Iowa City as a county town. They were unwilling to accept the fact that the environs of a seat of government must share its light.

During Johnson County's political period the warring elements only added gusto to the give-and-take life of pioneer days, but with the coming of the University these conflicting factions were intensified in a setting that needed harmony to become a fitting frame for the State's seat of higher learning. Gradually the miracle was accomplished through the influence of the University itself, when she ceased to be solely an intellectual mother, and opened her heart to those of her people who were broken by suffering of the body. Even those most hostile to "higher learning" were proud of University Hospital's white towers and Old Stone Capitol -- the heart and center of Johnson County.





JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORY



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